Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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VP pick Biden's son was a CNMI lobbyist. **PAGE 3**

Tudela sworn in as new DPS Commissioner. **PAGE 5**

Legislative leaders ask Fitial to clarify emergency declaration

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios have asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to clarify his recent declaration of a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI.

Reyes and Palacios specifically requested for clarification on the nature of the emergency declaration and the justification for, intent and extent of application of the declaration's Directive No. 2.

Directive No. 2 states that "the Commonwealth Public Utility Commission

See LEGISLATIVE on Page 4

Engine 8 down indefinitely

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 was down to just two engines yesterday, with one engine out of operation indefinitely.

The loss of Engine No. 8 caused three-hour rotating outages across the island yesterday.

Engine No. 2 went down Sunday but was scheduled to be up and running by

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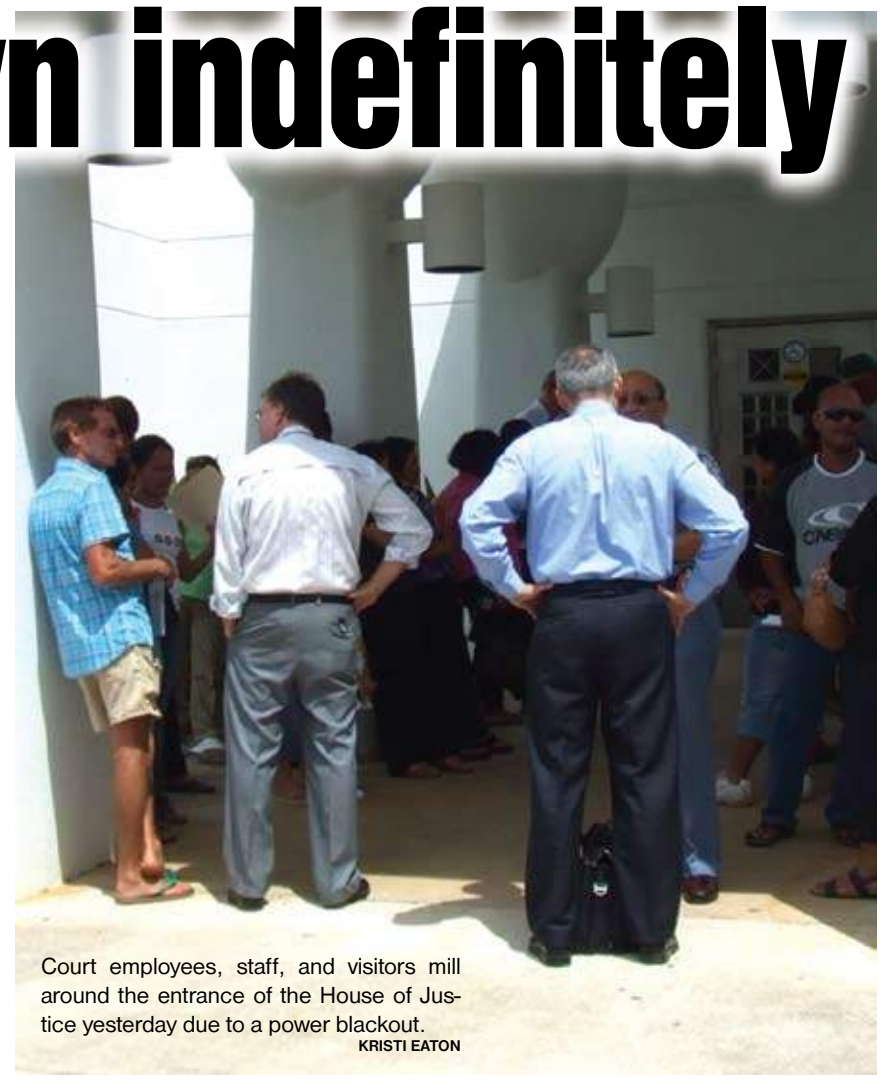

Court employees, staff, and visitors mill around the entrance of the House of Justice yesterday due to a power blackout.
KRISTI EATON

STATE OF TINIAN'S ECONOMY:

Stagnant but cautiously optimistic

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

SPECIAL Report

TINIAN—Symptoms of the CNMI's recent economic downturn have taken a major toll here yet government and business leaders are cautiously optimistic a series of prospects on the horizon could improve conditions on the island.

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VOICES

'You can feel there is a downturn. You don't have to look at pie charts.'
—William Cing

'People just don't have the spending power anymore to bring things to the island. The economy is kind of stagnant now. Everything is at a standstill.'
—Trenton Conner

'The power rate is basically affecting our ability to put stuff on the shelf.'
—Kimberly Hinds

Harvard reclaims top spot in latest US News list

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Harvard University is the country's oldest, wealthiest and most selective university. Now it's back on top of the U.S. News & World Report college rankings, claiming

See HARVARD on Page 4

AP

Students walk through the Harvard Law School area on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., in this Nov. 19, 2002 file photo.

TOP 10 UNIVERSITIES

Top-ranked national U.S. universities in 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges" from U.S. News & World Report (last year's ranking in parentheses).

1. Harvard University (2)
2. Princeton University (1)
3. Yale University (3)
4. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (7)
5. Stanford University (4)
6. California Institute of Technology (5)
7. University of Pennsylvania (5)
8. Columbia University (9)
9. Duke University (8)
10. University of Chicago (9)

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should PSS put off the start of classes to mid-September when the power situation is expected to stabilize?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Plane Crashes
A Beech King Air A-100 crashes and explodes in southeastern Utah, killing 10 people on board.

NATION...Page 15

A passenger jet carrying 90 people crashed shortly after takeoff near the Kyrgyz capital, killing 68.

ASIA...Page 16

A small plane carrying U.S. workers crashed in a field in Guatemala on Sunday, killing 10.

WORLD...Page 16

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Local

'Call for impeachment unreasonable, lacks support'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The call for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's impeachment is unreasonable and has no support from lawmakers, according to press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. yesterday.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Reyes said that, during Friday's House's session, representatives did not share Rep. Christina Sablan's sentiments for the governor's impeachment.

"I don't think the governor has done anything that even remotely rises to the level of impeachment proceedings," he pointed out.

The press secretary cited that the CNMI Constitution is quite clear that a governor may be impeached if he commits a felony, treason, or if he is involved in corruption or negligent in his duty.

"If you look at all those criteria, none of those situations apply to the governor," Reyes said.

On Friday, Sablan urged lawmakers to initiate impeachment proceedings against Fitial; she also called for the resignation of Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, who has been indicted on criminal charges.

"The people are clamoring for a recall, for impeachment, for the Legislature to take some kind of meaningful stance against the parade of weakly-justified emergency declarations, unconstitutional executive orders, highly suspicious sole-source contracts, nonsensical threats of litigation against the federal government, failure to pay employer contributions to the Retirement Fund or to pay down the deficit—the list goes on and on," Sablan said.

Sablan

Reyes

The lawmaker said Fitial's actions might be, at the end of the day, technically legal, but "they are fundamentally, ethically, and morally wrong."

"Taken together, they add up to dereliction of duty. Taken together, they add up to a staggering betrayal of the public trust," she added.

With respect to Villagomez, Sablan said even if there is a chance that he might ultimately be acquitted, "in the hearts and minds of so many our people, he has lost all credibility."

Sablan said Villagomez should not be allowed to remain in public office.

"Our personal relationships with him do not matter. All that should matter is the public trust. He must step down," she said.

The lawmaker urged her colleagues to take a clear and united position on this issue, on behalf of their constituents, to urge Villagomez to resign or be removed.

Reyes said Sablan's call is not reasonable and not justified by the Constitution.

On the call for Villagomez's resignation, Reyes said the House is empowered to impeach the lieutenant governor.

"But I don't know why she is calling for the lieutenant governor's resignation because the lieutenant governor can't be forced to resign," he said.

According to the Constitution, the press secretary said, the governor and the Legislature cannot force the lieutenant governor to resign.

"At this point, if the Legislature, if Sablan wants the lieutenant governor to be removed, then she has to move for impeachment proceedings," Reyes said.

Apparently, he added, there is no clear desire on the part of the House to impeach Villagomez.

"It has to begin in the House," Reyes said.

MARINE MONUMENT
PUBLIC PRESENTATION SCHEDULE
for the Week of August 25, 2008

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
5:00pm	6:00pm	5:00pm
Concept Overview	Concept Overview	Economic Study

Presentations are open to the public and anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.
No reservations required.

We are located at the JT Guerrero building in Garapan next to Asia Scooter Rentals.
This schedule will rotate weekly and presentations will be added.
Schedules will be noticed weekly on Tuesdays.
Private presentations are available upon request – please give us a call!
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First Annual
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"Partnering for the Future"

World Resort Royal Taga Hall
Thursday August 28, 2008
8:30 am - 4:30pm

Topics:
- **U.S. Public Law 110-229**
- **Immigration through the Transition Period**
- **Military Build up**
- **Local Opportunities**
- **Aquaculture and Agriculture Opportunities**
- **CNMI's Plan**

To register, please send your name, contact information, address, and company/agency/organization name to
cnmibizz@gmail.com or call: 664-3018

Registration is limited

Sponsors:
Department of Commerce and
Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA)

Workshop will prep businesses on ID theft

Federal officials will host a training session next week on Saipan to help local businesses prevent identity theft.

In a statement, the U.S. Attorney's Office said the training session at the Pacific Islands Club Sept. 3 is "an effort to protect the privacy of consumer information and reduce the risk of fraud and identity."

The training will include an overview of ways to prevent identity theft and applicable local and federal laws on the issue.

According to Better Business Bureau statistics, more than 9 million people fall victim to identity theft each year and for the last five consecutive years it has proven to be the top consumer complaint heard by the Federal Trade Commission.

Speakers at the event will include federal prosecutors, a postal inspector and U.S. Secret Service agents. The training will take place from 8am to noon in the resort's NAPU room. Contact 479-4144 to register. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

hope, strength and joy!
"My wish is to become a firefighter!"
Saipan Tribune

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VP pick Biden's son was a CNMI lobbyist

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE), the newly named running mate of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (IL), has family ties—sort of—to the CNMI: His son, R. Hunter Biden, served as a lobbyist for Gov. Benigno Fitial's administration on the minimum wage and immigration issues.

R. Hunter Biden is a founding partner of Oldaker, Biden and Belair, the Washington, D.C., firm the Fitial administration hired in 2007 at a cost of $90,000 to lobby Capitol Hill.

According to news reports, R. Hunter Biden is the son of Sen. Biden, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and previously chaired the Judiciary Committee.

As a lobbyist for the CNMI, R. Hunter Biden was barred under the terms of a contract from seeking legislative support from his own father, yet some recent media reports suggest Sen. Biden's influence was at other times a major asset to his son's business.

News Obama had selected Biden as his vice presidential pick leaked to the media late Friday and the campaign later confirmed it in a flurry of text messages to supporters. Political observers say the addition of Biden, a veteran senator, to the Democratic presidential ticket could give Obama cover against criticism that he lacks political experience.

However, R. Hunter Biden's political dealings could prove a liability for his father, who has long stood out as an opponent of special interest groups.

Mainland newspapers have already noted, for example, that at the time Biden was working with the credit card industry to win passage of legislation establishing stricter criteria for consumers to file for bankruptcy protection, his son was serving as a consultant to the MBNA Corp., one of the companies vying to see the changes enacted and a contributor to Biden's 2004 campaign.

Responding to these reports, Obama campaign staff have said Sen. Biden's work on the bankruptcy bill was never influenced by his son, according to the *New York Times*, and Biden's son has declined to comment.

President Bush earlier this year signed legislation establishing federal authority over local immigration rules despite efforts to prevent the bill from passing. Business leaders have said the new regulations, now being crafted by the Department of Homeland Security, could prove damaging to the local economy. Proponents of "federalization," however, contend it will safeguard foreign workers against abuse.

Prior to signing the lobbying deal with Biden's firm, the CNMI's efforts to sway Washington politics were led by Jack Abramoff, who is now serving a sentence in a minimum-security federal prison in Maryland on fraud and corruption charges.

Century Insurance awarded $170K

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Century Insurance Co. Ltd. was awarded $170,960.49 Monday stemming from a 10-year-old lawsuit over the construction of Tinian High School.

CIC had initiated the lawsuit against Guerrero Brothers Inc. In it, CIC, through counsel Steven Pixley, asked the Superior Court to enforce specific performance of their agreement by executing the 55-year lease for the land. The plaintiff also demanded monetary damages, attorney's fees and court costs.

Pixley stated in the complaint that on Nov. 12, 1993, Century Insurance executed a conditional contract titled "agreement to lease" real property with the defendants on a 11,294-square meter lot on Saipan.

Under the agreement, the defendants agreed to execute a lease agreement in favor of Century Insurance for the property if certain conditions arose.

Pixley said the lease agreement was executed during the ongoing business transactions between plaintiff, defendants and GBI for the construction of the Tinian high school.

Pixley said the defendants executed the agreement to ensure that GBI could obtain payment and performance bonding coverage on the school project.

Century Insurance issued payment and performance bonds in the amount of $3.85 million.

The defendants agreed to execute a 55-year lease in favor of Century Insurance upon the occurrence of the following conditions:

- If GBI defaults on the Public School System project.
- That PSS issues a permanent stop order to GBI for work on the project.
- That plaintiff completes construction of the project.

Pixley said that in February 1997, PSS issued to GBI a cure notice and notice of intention to terminate its contract with GBI for defaulting on the project. On April 7, 1997, PSS terminated the contract with GBI and prohibited it from doing any further work on the project.

GBI appealed the default termination.

In 1999, Judge Perry Bond of the U.S. Interior Board of Contract Appeals ordered PSS to convert GBI's termination for default into a "termination for convenience."

The conversion of the termination for default to a termination for convenience was a term used in a settlement agreement reached in the resolution of a civil action filed in Superior Court in 1997. In that case, GBI had been a named defendant in an action initiated by the Commonwealth Development Authority relating to the project. GBI was also named a defendant in the second civil case filed in 2001 in Superior Court relating to the project, which is still pending.

The settlement agreement in the 1997 case was signed in 2001 by GBI and PSS.

Pixley said that, due to GBI's termination for default, PSS formally requested that plaintiff assume the responsibility of completing the construction of the project.

Century Insurance, in fact, assumed the responsibility in 1997, Pixley said.

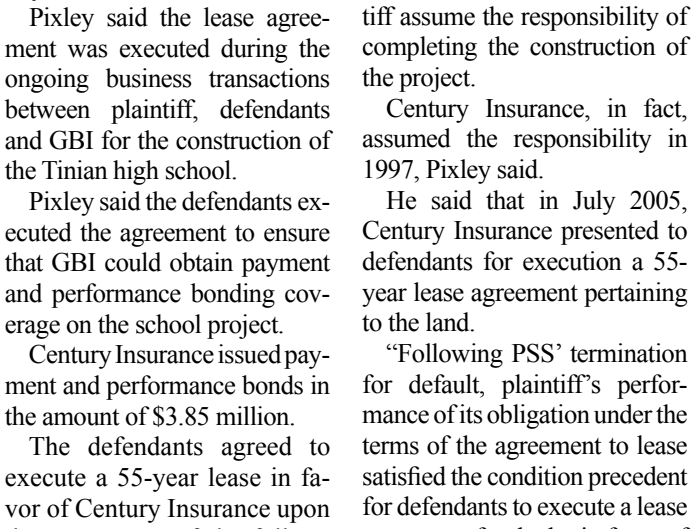
He said that in July 2005, Century Insurance presented to defendants for execution a 55-year lease agreement pertaining to the land.

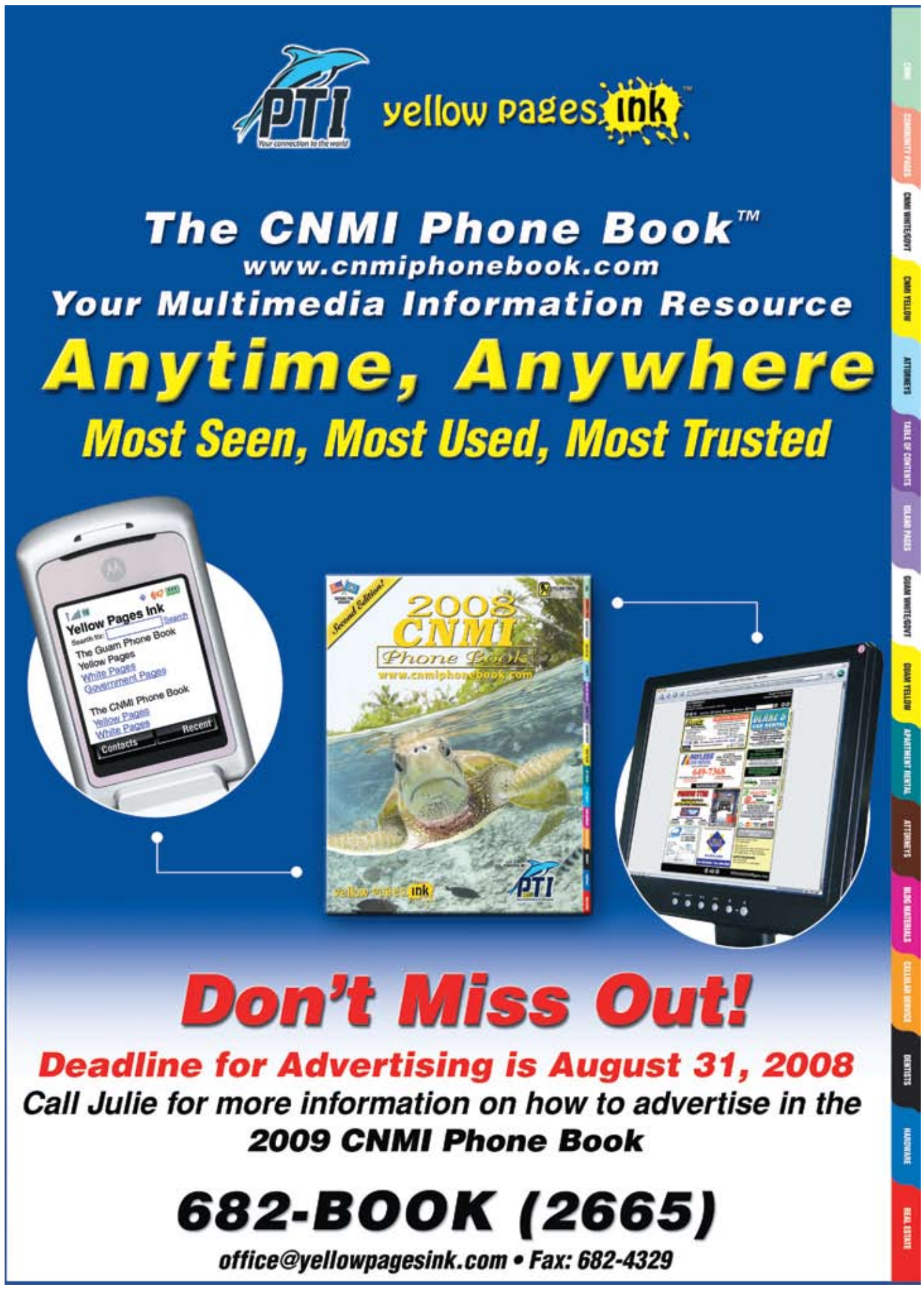
"Following PSS' termination for default, plaintiff's performance of its obligation under the terms of the agreement to lease satisfied the condition precedent for defendants to execute a lease agreement for the lot in favor of plaintiff," the lawyer said.

Pixley said that, through the voluntary agreement by the defendants to assign the lot to Century for 55 years if Century was required to complete the construction of the project, Century in fact completed the project.

"Under a quasi-contract theory of recovery, plaintiff is entitled to restitution of the value of services performed (i.e. the cost to complete the project)," he argued.

Pixley could not comment on the case because PSS must still present their case.





NMC hoping to enroll more students as school starts

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College is still hoping to reach their goal of enrolling close to 1,000 students even as the school year began yesterday.

As of yesterday, approximately 800 students had enrolled.

Mark Mendiola, spokesman for NMC, said registration would continue through Friday. This is currently the students' add and drop period.

"We're doing our best to get the students in the door," he said.

NMC has been on probation since February 2007 and was put on show-cause in February this year because, according to Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, the school did not address previous concerns.

"We braced ourselves for this type of situation, and we're ready," Mendiola said.

He said the administration has worked hard improve training and work on the problems that were highlighted.

"All these pieces of the puzzle are coming together," he said.

The College is trying to keep the students and community members up to date on the accreditation status, he said.

Ivan Mereb, president of the Associated Students of NMC, said the accreditation is just a bump in the road.

"We're not alone in this," he said. "Lots of schools were given warnings. The College is moving forward."

Jerome Chinen, a business student, said he was initially concerned about the accreditation status but his concerns have subsided.

"There's nothing we can really do but go to school," he added.

The current power situation is also affecting the College. Yesterday morning the power was out at the College as students began their first day of classes.

Although there are generators in some areas of the school, most classrooms do not have one, Mendiola said.

"By September we're hoping the blackouts will be a thing of the past," he added referring to the Aggreko generators, which are expected to be up and running by mid-September.

Fitial nominates Prater to CPA board, withdraws Cruz

Gov. Benigno Fitial has nominated Margarita Prater to serve on the board of the Commonwealth Ports Authority but at the same time, he has withdrawn his nomination of Edith DLG Cruz.

In two Aug. 21 letters, Fitial said Prater will be an "asset" to the board and noted that he has pulled back Cruz's nomination for undisclosed reasons.

Earlier this year, Fitial dissolved the CPA board, saying the ports authority was on the verge of a technical default on its multi-million dollar airport revenue bond and that the board had failed to implement measures to prevent it.

CPA has now a functional board of directors after the Senate last week confirmed the nomination of three members; former senator Thomas "Kiyu" P. Villagomez, former representative Benigno M. Sablan, and retiree Fermin Sakisat.

Fitial also included in the swearing in former CPA board chair Joe Lifoifoi. Lifoifoi does not need to be confirmed because the administration asked him to continue service on the board.

Barry Toves, representing Rota, has yet to be confirmed. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

HARVARD

From Page 1

sole possession of the No. 1 spot for the first time in 12 years. Princeton slips to No. 2, ending eight straight years of at least sharing the top ranking. The latest edition hits newsstands Monday, but was to be published Friday on the magazine's Web site.

Yale follows at No. 3, and MIT and Stanford tie for fourth. The University of California, Berkeley is the highest-ranked public university, at No. 21 overall. In a separate list for liberal arts colleges, Amherst moves up one spot to tie Williams, its rival just up the road in Massachusetts, for the top spot.

In an e-mailed statement, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences spokesman Robert Mitchell said that "it is always nice to be recognized in this way. However, our admissions officers always tell prospective students that they should select a college or university that best suits their needs, not by its position in a ranking."

The ranking formula takes account of factors such as SAT scores, peer reputation, selectivity and alumni giving.

So how did Harvard edge past its Ivy League rival? A comparison of last year's numbers points to one category where it moved ahead of Princeton—average class size. Harvard reports the percentage of students in classes under 20 students rose from 69 percent to 75 percent since last year's report, while the percentage in classes bigger than 50 fell from 13 percent to 9 percent.

Senate OKs resolution for new federal courthouse

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Senate has passed without amendment a House Joint Resolution requesting the U.S. Department of Justice to construct a new federal courthouse in the CNMI and appoint a U.S. Attorney, a U.S. Marshal, and a Chief Probation Officer to the Commonwealth.

The Senate yesterday informed House Speaker Arnold Palacios that the Senate on Friday adopted by a voice vote House Joint Resolution No. 16-7.

The joint resolution was passed in the House and transmitted to the Senate on June 23.

House Floor Leader Joseph James Norita Camacho, who authored the joint resolution, yesterday expressed appreciation to the Senate leadership for entertaining and passing it.

He said part of the resolution is a request that a new federal courthouse be build in the CNMI.

At present, the U.S. District Court for the NMI rents space on Saipan.

"What we are asking is [for] a new federal building to be established and built here," said Camacho, who is a lawyer.

He noted that, except for the CNMI, every other jurisdiction has its own U.S. Attorney, U.S. Marshal, and U.S. Chief Probation Officer.

"Right now we have U.S. Attorneys Office, U.S. Probation Office, and U.S. Marshal's Office. They have personnel that are assigned here but they're not officed and housed here," Camacho said.

"In Guam, they have their own caseload, they have their own priority cases. We need to have their own office here so that they can address our own priority type of cases here in the CNMI," he added.

CNMI and Guam are the only districts to share a U.S. Attorney, U.S. Marshal, and Chief Probation Officer.

"The CNMI warrants the same dignity and respect as all other jurisdictions," Camacho stated in the joint resolution.

ENGINE

From Page 1

the end of yesterday, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said in the afternoon. It should be producing two megawatts of power by the end of the week and four more soon after.

Engine No. 8 will be down indefinitely due to a water pump problem, something that is not a simple task to fix, Muña said.

"It's really a challenge for us," he added.

Muña said fixing engine No. 8 requires ordering more parts from the manufacturer, which could take several months.

But, Muña said, CUC is looking at alternatives.

"As soon as we find someone with the pump, it could be as quick as purchasing it," he said.

The Aggreko generators, however, could be operational before the pump is fixed, he added.

The infrastructure for the Aggreko generators arrived this past weekend, and the actual generators should arrive Aug. 31, with two more shipments arriving Sept. 6 and Sept. 12, he said.

Muña said the generators will be turned on Sept. 13 or 14, and should be operational no later than Sept. 17.

With Engine No. 8 down, Power Plant 1 will be producing 15 megawatts, and Power Plant 4 will be producing 14 megawatts, for a total of 29 megawatts for the island.

STAGNANT

From Page 1

High prices on goods, utilities and transportation, coupled with a drop in tourism, have put a strain on many Tinian businesses, observers say, forcing some to scale back services to compensate.

"You can feel there is a downturn," William Cing, an adviser to Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas, said in an interview last week. "You don't have to look at pie charts."

The pending military buildup in the region, however, and an array of construction projects could bolster Tinian's economy with new jobs and opportunity. Among these prospects are two new resorts slated to begin construction in the near future.

Yet for Tinian to see a significant economic revival, many locals say the island must first address infrastructure needs like repairing the breakwater at the local port, establishing a new solid waste dump and installing a new instrument landing system for the airport, a project that is now in its early stages.

Meanwhile, Tinian's current economic woes are increasingly tied to high shipping costs, which business leaders say have driven up the price of retail goods and materials, further diminishing local businesses' financial resources.

"People just don't have the spending power anymore to bring things to the island," said Trenton Conner, operating manager of Tinian Stevedores Inc, which handles cargo at the island's port. "The economy is kind of stagnant now. Everything is at a standstill."

Shipping to Tinian has diminished recently, he added, with far fewer containers arriving. And next month, the price of transporting a 20-foot-long shipping container to Tinian is set to almost triple, he noted, from about $660 to $1,850 depending on its contents—an increase which will likely exacerbate problems for the island's business community.

To locally owned businesses like grocery and retail stores, an added challenge recently has become their foreigner-owned competition, who have the resources to lower prices below what they can offer to customers, several business leaders say. Consequently, they add, local shops are being slowly priced out of the market.

"Their prices are obviously cheaper than most of the other markets," said Kimberly Hinds, who runs a grocery and water bottling company on the island. "How are they able to stay in business and set their prices the way they do?"

At the same time, although the consistent power outages that plague Saipan are not a problem on Tinian, high power rates are eating into the profits of many businesses, with some owners now having to make tough choices to stay in operation.

"The power rate is basically affecting our ability to put stuff on the shelf," Hinds said, adding that most local businesses are now in "survival mode."

For example, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino now has a black curtain barring access to half of its casino floor, a move management said is intended to conserve energy.

"It's at a point where people have to choose between getting power and putting food on the table," said Conner.

In spite of these problems, several local business leaders said plans to develop new hotels on the island could be a potential economic boon. One, the Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums, a project by the Bridge Investment Group, has recently entered its first phase, constructing the staff housing and groundwork needed to begin building. Plans for a second, the Matua Bay Resort, recently unveiled at a press conference earlier this month, are moving forward after the submission of an environmental study of the site. Gaming commissioners are also investigating the financial backing for a third proposed resort on the island, put forth by the Neo Gold Wings Paradise Saipan Corp.

Moreover, businesses are eying the military buildup slated to begin in the area as a vehicle to improve economic conditions and the island's infrastructure. Military officials have said Tinian will likely serve as the staging ground for training activities.

"Everybody is looking at the military buildup for the future," said Conner, noting that it could increase the amount of shipping traffic at the port.

LEGISLATIVE

From Page 1

Act of 2006, Public Law 15-35, as amended, is hereby suspended insofar as it would require the presentation of CUC procurement information, including contracts and other measures relating to the supply of power or the operation and maintenance of CUC's generation, for PUC review."

In their letter to the governor last week, the Senate and House leaders pointed out that, as they see it, the purpose of Fitial's emergency declaration—Executive Order 2008-10—is to effectuate Public Law 16-9.

That law authorizes Fitial to issue a retrospective declaration of emergency for any contract in existence on the effective date of such law, provided that the contract is for a term of two years or less and is for emergency wholesale power generation.

Citing Directive 2, Reyes and Palacios expressed concern that the executive order " appears to do more than that."

The two officials noted that while P.L. 16-9 amends P.L. 15-35 (PUC Act) to preclude PUC review of any contract for emergency wholesale power generation, a plain reading of Directive 2 "appears to suspend all statutory provisions requiring PUC review that relate to power generation, including emergency wholesale power generation."

Reyes and Palacios said there has been no request or indication from either the CUC or the administration that the emergency so far presented warrants a wholesale suspension of these specific provisions of P.L. 15-35.

Fitial declared the state of disaster emergency for the CNMI on Aug. 1, citing that one of the power engines at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Plant 1 in Lower Base could explode at any time, maiming or killing power plant workers.

The declaration caught some lawmakers by surprise, including Sen. Paul Manglona, who chairs the Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Commission. Manglona said the executive order was signed on Aug. 1, but he only became aware of it on Aug. 14.

Manglona had questioned whether there are other contracts being signed using this declaration of emergency.

Palacios had also expressed concern with the legal implications of the declaration. He immediately instructed the House legal counsel to review and analyze the executive order.

In response to the concerns, the Fitial administration has assured that CUC under the new leadership of executive director Tony Muña is not going to allow improper contracts to be executed.

In their request for clarification, Reyes and Palacios told Fitial that the Legislature stands ready to lend whatever assistance legally permissible under the Constitution that the current power crisis demands in the best interest of the health and welfare of residents and businesses, especially on Saipan where the crisis is most critical.

"The enactment of P.L. 16-9 permitting CUC to contract for emergency wholesale power generation without review and approval of the Public Utilities Corp., is the latest example," they said.

Group welcomes talks on marine monument

A local environment group has expressed keen interest in meeting with a team being sent by President Bush to the CNMI to discuss the proposal designating the northernmost three islands of the Commonwealth as a marine monument.

Ignacio V. Cabrera, chairman for the recently organized "Friends of the Marine Monument," said: "We applaud the White House for listening to the people of the CNMI and coming to speak directly with us.

"We are confident that public support will grow as more people come to understand the multitude of potential benefits the monument will bring to the CNMI. We believe that a marine monument in the northernmost waters of the CNMI would be good for our marine life, good for our economy, and protect our culture," he added.

Another member, former congressman Andrew S. Salas, echoed this, saying: "I am happy that President Bush and the federal government are coming over to talk to us regarding the monument project. …As a former congressman, I see that the announcement shows that the President wants our input and it is important for our people. With any good ideas, there are always concerns; but in the end, when you have a dialogue, a better product is developed."

Many members of the Legislature have expressed worries that there would be a unilateral decision to declare the monument without local input. Local lawmakers and the CNMI community have been clamoring for more information about the advantages and challenges of the proposed Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, and for the chance to directly talk with the federal government about it.

"I just want to thank President Bush for respecting our people and coming over to the CNMI to further discussions. It shows the local peoples' input regarding local customs and traditions are important and we thank the President for that respect. This monument project is important both economically and environmentally for our people. I am a strong supporter of this project and look forward to seeing it move forward," Salas said.

The Associated Press has reported that the White House will begin a dialogue with the Commonwealth regarding the possibility of establishing the monument. This kicks off the process where the federal government will assess the area for its potential as a marine monument. A forthcoming White House announcement will fulfill the request by the CNMI House and Senate joint resolution asking for more information with the federal government before any action is taken to designate a monument.

Supporters of the plan argue that a marine monument in the northern waters of the CNMI would foster significant benefits to the islands, including protection of the marine life in the monument from illegal fishing, depletion of fisheries from industrial commercial fishing, and protection of the rich diversity of corals.

A recent economic analysis has shown that a monument would bring in at least $10 million annually into the CNMI economy through increased tourism, and government spending; and it would provide 400 local jobs.

Opponents of the plan believe the move encroaches on the self-governing status of the local government, is a violation of the Covenant agreement, and will strip the CNMI of control over the islands.

The White House has proposed other potential areas for marine monuments that CNMI will be competing with. They include the Rose Atoll near American Samoa and the Line Islands in the central Pacific along the equator. ***(PR)***

Tudela sworn in as new DPS chief

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A lack of power in the CNMI Superior Court building yesterday couldn't keep Stanley Tudela from being sworn in as Department of Public Safety Commissioner.

When the Superior Court's generator was turned off and everyone was left in the dark, the ceremony was moved to the DPS station. He was sworn in by Associate Justice Alexandro Castro.

DPS officers and Tudela's daughters joined him at the ceremony.

"I asked my daughters to come," a smiling Tudela said after the ceremony.

Now he can officially wear the badge, he added, laughing.

This was the second—and final—part of the process for Tudela to become commissioner. On Friday, the Senate confirmed him to the post.

During the hearing, Tudela told senators that he would do his best to help solve the recent string of burglaries.

Tudela earlier disclosed that his priorities would be opening up the police and fire cycle to address the manpower shortage at DPS.

The Fitial administration terminated Claudio K. Norita as DPS commissioner and tapped Tudela as his replacement.

Tudela served as DPS commissioner during the Babauta administration.

KRISTI EATON
Stanley Tudela, surrounded by his family and colleagues, is sworn in as Department of Public Safety Commissioner at the department.

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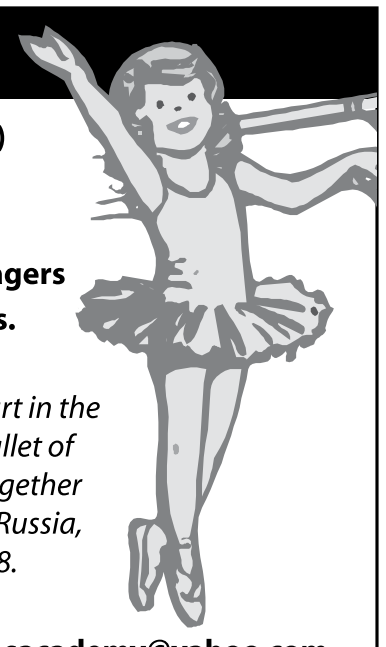

All students of the Academy will take part in the Christmas performance of classic ballet of "Swan Lake" that would be staged together with guest ballet professionals from Russia, Korea & Japan in December 2008.

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Floor Leader: House members doing their job

Camacho cites 145 bills filed in 8-month period

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives are doing their job, according to Floor Leader Joseph James Norita Camacho.

In House bills alone, the 16th Legislature has introduced 145 bills in eight months, Camacho said during Friday's session.

"That's a lot of bills and many of them are good bills," he said. "Every person here in one way or another is working everyday."

The Floor Leader said all representatives have done their best to be transparent since all sessions are open to the public, are recorded and transferred to a journal.

"I told Rep. [Christina Sablan] that just because you are not at a meeting does not mean that it's a secret meeting," Camacho said.

Sablan has been very vocal in pushing for transparency in the House's affairs.

Among House lawmakers, Camacho tops the list having principally authored 19 bills, one House legislative initiative, and one House joint resolution, in addition to co-sponsoring other legislations.

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua closely follows Camacho with 18 principally authored bills.

USS *Stethem* crew helps clean up MHS

Some of the crew members of USS *Stethem* led by Commanding Officer Shan Byrne, standing at right, pose at the Dolphins' monument after completing community works at the Marianas High School yesterday. Also in photo are MHS Council president Tony Benavente, Ruth Coleman of the Military and Veterans Affairs Office and Karen Borja.
NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A crew from the visiting USS *Stethem* has just completed community work by repainting the outer walls of the Library Building at the Marianas High School in Susupe.

MHS school council president Tony Benavente said they are fortunate that the crew were able to give their time and do such work in the campus.

He said the Council, in coordination with the Military and Veterans Affairs Office, arranged this activity, which he said was similar to what the crew of another visiting U.S. ship did last year.

That crew made picnic tables but the school still needs more tables for students to enjoy.

"Their work was really well appreciated. On behalf of the Council, we express our profound gratitude," said Benavente.

The Navy men, who were led by the ship's Commanding Officer, Shan Byrne, also did clean-up work on campus grounds.

'We enjoy this kind of community relation activities," said Byrne after joining several of his men in a photo session at the Dolphins' monument along with Benavente, Governor's Office Special Assistant Ruth Coleman of the Military and Veterans Affairs Office and MHS principal Karen Borja.

Byrne said they are on the island for rest-and-recreation purposes but they also interact with members of the community.

"We're also enjoying the beautiful scenery," he quipped.

Some of the 276 crew members went diving or played golf.

The crew will complete their five-day sojourn today as they cruise back to their homeport in Yokosuka, Japan.

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Mass to kick off Substance Abuse Prevention Month

A Mass this Sunday Aug. 31, at the San Jose Church on Saipan will kick off the Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment/Recovery Month, or SAPTember.

SAPTember committee chair Tony Benavente said month-long activities will include community presentations on how to prevent and control substance abuse, especially among the youth in the CNMI.

Youth groups will gather at the Susupe Basketball Court on Sept. 6 for the Family Fun Day. The activity will start at 8am.

This gathering will feature "Big Daddy Trucks" and "Small Mama Trucks" where kids will compete using their remote controlled toys.

"Everybody is invited to this occasion," said Benaventel.

Different government agencies will be involved as well as the private sector. The Community Guidance Center will be the lead agency.

Benavente said Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela would soon sign a proclamation declaring September as Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment/Recovery Month. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

'No matching requirement for new CIP funds

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has disputed a claim that local matching funds for capital improvement funds are still required, saying: "I can unequivocally state that there is no longer a local matching requirement for new Capital Improvement Project funds."

Tenorio was responding to delegate candidate Felipe Atalig's statement in the local papers on Aug. 22, claiming that local matching funds for Covenant Section 702 Capital Improvement Funds are still required.

In a statement issued yesterday, Tenorio said: "I do not normally respond to critic's comments, especially politically motivated ones, but occasionally when those comments are untrue and such disinformation may be potentially harmful to the people of the CNMI, I feel that as your elected Resident Representative more familiar with the Covenant and our relationship with the Federal Government, I must respond accordingly."

Tenorio

Under the Special Representatives Agreement signed on Dec. 17, 1992, the CNMI was required to provide an equal local match for every dollar of CIP funds it gets from the federal government. Congress extended this matching requirement through FY 2003 with U.S. Public Law 106-113. This law also provided only $5.42 million to the CNMI for Fiscal Year 2003.

"However, through the combined efforts of Gov. Juan N. Babauta and myself, we were able to increase the FY 2003 appropriation to $11 million, and the funds represented by the increase over $5.42 million did not require a match. Additionally, the 702 Agreement signed by OIA Deputy Assistant Secretary David Cohen and Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente on February 9, 2004, did not include a local match requirement," said Tenorio.

"Unfortunately when the local matching requirement was removed, it did not eliminate the prior local matching funds requirement under the old Future Federal Financial Assistance executed in 1992. Therefore, today when our government expends CIP funds appropriated prior to FY 2003, it must spend the local matching dollars first, even if the federal funds have been reprogrammed," added Tenorio. ***(PR)***

DEQ interns ready for final presentations

The Division of Environmental Quality is inviting the public to witness the 10 coral reef interns at a presentation tomorrow, Aug. 27, of the work they did this summer.

The presentation will be held at the Coastal Resource Management Office Conference Room starting at 9:30am.

"The community is invited to attend this celebration and witness the tales of the 2008 Coral Reef Initiative summer internship program," DEQ said.

The goal of the internship is to provide college students with hands-on experience working in the natural resources agencies: DEQ, Division of Fish and Wildlife and the CRMO.

DEQ thanked the interns for a job well done.

This year's interns are Solomon Castro, Georgia Cabrera, Daniel Villegas, Matthew Blanco, Teresa Miller, Phillip Johnson, Jose Quan, Francisco Palacios, Andrew Moses and Leovita Cabrera.

The internship program occurs yearly and is open to high school graduates and college students. For more information, contact public information officer Reina Camacho at 664-8500. ***(Nazario Rodriguez)***

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NMC still accepting applications

Federal financial aid also available for qualified students

It's still not too late to apply and enroll for the Northern Marianas College's Fall 2008 semester. The college announced yesterday that it is still accepting admission applications up until Friday, Aug. 29, 2008.

Students who are looking for assistance in paying for college classes have until Sept. 12, 2008 to apply for federal financial aid. Under the federal Pell grant program, for example, full time students can qualify for up to $4,731. Part-time students also qualify for substantial amounts of up to $3,548. Financial aid staff members at the college provide assistance in explaining financial aid options and filling financial aid forms.

NMC offers a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, as well as an associate degree in Business, Liberal Arts, Nursing, Natural Resource Management, Business Administration (with emphasis in accounting, sales and marketing, computer applications, etc.), Hospitality Management, Criminal Justice, and more.

Applications for admission can be downloaded from the NMC website at www.nmcnet.edu. The updated class schedule for the Fall 2008 semester can also be found on the NMC website. For more information about admission, call the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 extension 1523/28/39/40, e-mail oar@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

For additional information about financial aid options, contact Daisy Manglona-Propst at 234-5498 Ext. 1527 or email daisym@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Calling on CNMI Delegate candidates

The people of Kagman and Precinct 5 would like to get to know all the candidates for the CNMI Delegate position. The community will be having a public forum in September at the Kagman Community Center. Candidates will get the chance to present themselves and where they stand.

If you are interested in meeting with the Kagman and Precinct 5 public, contact the Kagman Komunidat Association president Jesse Torres at balutan@balutanbox.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Free immigration reform seminar

There will be a free seminar for alien workers in the CNMI, focusing on immigration reform and non-immigrant visa, to be led by lawyer Nelson J. Xu of the Guam-based L.A. Baumann & Associates on Aug. 30, 2008 (Saturday), from 2pm to 5:30pm at the Saipan Community Church.

For more information and reservation, contact Irene at 285 7717/322 8897 (leave your name and number) or e-mail her at irenebdi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Seatbelt, child seat checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting seatbelt/child seat checkpoints on Thursday, Aug. 28.

The first setup will be on Beach Road Garapan by the Fishing Base. This will start at 4pm and end around 5:15pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road Susupe by the Multi-Purpose building. This will begin at about 7:30pm and end at 8:45pm.

Each checkpoint will last 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location. This activity is part of the department's efforts to deter and detect and ensure that all vehicles occupants are protected.

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sgt. Paul T. Ogumoro at 664-9085. ***(DPS)***

Tinian High PTSA reminder

This is to remind all parents of Tinian High School (both junior/senior) that the last day to submit your ballot for the PTSA Election of Officers will be Friday, Aug. 29, 2008. Turn in your ballots to Nieves Reyes at the high school, or to Lynette I. Hofschneider, Augusta Famaw, Wella Mendiola, Vida Borja or Frances H. Diaz no later than 3pm.

Parent orientation at SAES

San Antonio Elementary School would like to inform the public that parent orientation for the following grade levels will be as follows:

Sept. 8 (Monday)

- 4th Graders—4pm -5pm
- 5th Graders—5pm - 6pm
- 6th Graders—6pm - 7pm

Sept. 9 (Tuesday)

- 1st Graders—4pm - 5pm
- 2nd Graders—5pm - 6pm
- 3rd Graders—6pm - 7pm

"The orientation will be in each respective classroom. We would like to ask all the parents to be present to receive important information that will be given out by each classroom teacher," school officials said in a statement. ***(PR)***

Wing Beach cleanup set

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Wing Beach on Saturday, Sept. 6.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify the island, meet brigade members at Wing Beach at 8am. Volunteers will clean until 10am, break for drinks, and continue the cleanup, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Last month, volunteers removed debris from Makaka Beach. The last time Wing Beach was selected as a brigade location was September 2007. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 26, 1999

Senate eyes tighter pre-screening procedures

In a swift reaction to a recommendation from a visiting key U.S. congressional staff, the Senate is expected to pass today a proposed measure to establish a Washington-approved list of foreign individuals and agencies that will screen guest workers seeking entry into the CNMI.

Enrollment at NMC declines

A top college official said yesterday the Northern Marianas College may be able to reduce its tuition rates, as proposed by a legislator, provided the Legislature would appropriate budget for college operations. Ramon Villagomez, chairman of NMC's Board of Regents, reminded the Senate and House members that the college is only receiving legislative appropriations for personnel, while funds for operations are sourced from tuition paid by students who are receiving grants from the government's Education Assistance Program or EAP.

On 'Boat People': 'I hope this will be the last one'

In an apparent sign that it has taken a toll on the government's resources, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday expressed hope that the 151 illegal Chinese immigrants now staying on Tinian would be the last to be referred to the island by federal authorities. He said they expect to spend less on this latest group than the previous boatloads comprised of close to 500 undocumented aliens who were given temporary shelter on Tinian prior to their return to mainland China.

August 26, 2002

So why did Torres resign? Rumor mill on overdrive

Just before he flies for Japan today, Gov. Juan N. Babauta is expected to meet with some of the staff of the Attorney General's Office to map out the next few days' operations, in the wake of the abrupt resignation of Attorney General Robert T. Torres. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, who still declined to comment on the matter at the moment, merely said he expects the meeting at least to make sure the AGO continues with its normal operations and processes, and that work should not be hampered.

DOLI, DPS, DPH take lead in performance initiative

With the Babauta administration operating in deficit mode two months before the end of the fiscal year, the Office of the Governor disclosed that government agencies are now analyzing its work processes to streamline these and reduce government costs. Robert Schwalbach, Gov. Juan N. Babauta's senior policy adviser, said that running the government efficiently is the thrust of the administration's Performance Government Initiative. He said some government agencies have formed groups to review their work processes.

Babauta flies to Japan

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is set to fly off this afternoon for Tokyo, where he is scheduled to meet with Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on WednesdayÑa historic first meeting between the highest officials of both countries. Among those accompanying Babauta to Tokyo are Senate President Paul A. Manglona, House Vice Speaker Manuel A. Tenorio, Senior Policy Advisor Robert Schwalbach, Marianas Visitors Authority Board member James Lin and former Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jose Ayuyu.

August 26, 2003

All systems go for biz-friendly NMI

Creating just one enforcement arm for all the permitting agencies in the Commonwealth would not only save the government money but it would also resolve any conflicts or overlapping of jurisdictions among them. Toward this end, Rep. William S. Torres said he is now reviewing the existing statutes and regulations to find out if it will require legislation to do this.

'Pass investment bills ASAP'

Rep. William S. Torres is urging the Senate to expedite the passage of several economic bills that remain pending at the upper chamber, saying these bills would go a long way toward creating a business-friendly atmosphere in the CNMI. He said these measures, with some languishing for over a year now, are critical in helping existing businesses tide themselves over the economic slump besieging the local economy since 1999.

Agenda for MHPC Meeting

Hyatt
August 27, 2008
9:00am-12:00pm

I. Call to Order
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of Minutes February, 2008
IV. Old Business
  a. Council Responsibilities
    i. Monitoring
    ii. Advocating
    iii. Block Grant Review & Comment
    iv. Quarterly Meetings Attendance/ Proxy Designation
V. New Business
  a. Block Grant Completion
    i. Dr. Abraham Report
    ii. Fiscal Officer-Financial Report
    iii. Questions & Answers/Comments for Block Grant Council Letter attachment
  b. 1st Regional Conference on Systems of Care
VI. Misc. & Announcements
VII. Next Meeting November 26, 2008
VIII. Adjournment/Lunch
IX. Committee Meetings to follow lunch

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR NOTICE

SEPTEMBER 2008 OFFICE HOURS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICE

During September 2008, the Administrative Hearing Office will be open from 8:30 am to 11 am and from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The shortened hours during September are to allow staff time to update databases, prepare notices, prepare files, and attend to other administrative tasks for the coming calendar quarter.

POSTING OF NOTICES OF DEFICIENCY AND DENIAL

For actions by the Director of Labor after August 15, 2008 to declare a deficiency or denial with respect to an application, the posting of the notice of the Director's action will be on the Department's website, www.marianaslabor.net, and by physical posting in the public area of the Department of Labor offices, Afetna Square Building, second floor, San Antonio. The purpose of posting notices on the website is so that all concerned, employers and employees, have equal access to the necessary information. In the past, mail service sometimes did not reach all parties in a timely way.

Death & Funeral Announcement

In Loving Memory

Soledad Takai Tenorio

"Daidai"

Born on November 7, 1926 was called to her eternal rest on August 23, 2008 at the age of 81.

Predeceased by:

Parents:	Parents-In-Law:
Pablo Shigezo Takai	Juan Pangelinan Tenorio
Ana Villagomez Duenas	Francisca Taimanao Camacho

Spouse:	Jose Camacho Tenorio
Grandsons:	Ray Patrick T. Palacios, Jonathan Paul T. Sablan
Son-In-Law:	Sidney G. Quan

Survived by:

Children:

Annie T./Jesus R. Sablan & Family
Clarence T. Tenorio & Family
Norman T./Keli A. Tenorio
Patricia T./Roman S. Palacios & Family
Frances T./Miguel S. Demapan & Family
Priscilla T. Tenorio/Joseph Guzman & Family

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:

Antonio & Tomoe Takai	Antonio C. Tenorio
+Jose & +Ana Takai	+Maria & +Herman R. Guerrero
+Rufina & +Jose Palacios	+Cecilia & +Manuel B. Sablan
+Dolores & +Vicente Guerrero	+Santiago & +Maria S. Tenorio
+Juana N. Takai	+Janet S. Tenorio
+Soledad G. Takai	+Antonia C. Tenorio
+Luis & +Rita S. Tenorio	+Froilan C. Tenorio
+Albert & +Rita C. Tenorio	+Ana C. Tenorio

Numerous relatives, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Daily mass is at 6:00 a.m. and nightly rosary
is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Funeral services will be on Monday, September 1, 2008 at
Mount Carmel Cathedral with responso at 8:30 a.m. followed by viewing.
Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow at
Mount Carmel Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers send donations to Jose C. Tenorio Foundation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Who needs Russia?

On Thursday, while overseeing his country's continuing occupation of neighboring Georgia, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev found time to meet with visiting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Assad, who is under suspicion of ordering the murder of political opponents in Lebanon, lavishly praised Russia's invasion of Georgia and asked for more Russian weapons. Medvedev acceded to this request, according to his foreign minister.

This was a small and unsurprising event in the annals of Russian diplomatic history. But it's worth noting as the United States and its European allies consider how to reshape relations with Russia in the wake of its Aug. 7 invasion of Georgia. A common theme of commentary since the war began has been that the United States is constrained in its condemnation of—or sanctions against—Russia because it needs Russia too much in areas ranging from counterterrorism to checking the nuclear ambitions of North Korea and Iran. But you can't lose what you never had, and it's fair to question how much help Russia has been providing in any of those areas, even before Aug. 7.

Iran provides a useful example. Russia has participated, with Germany, France and Britain, in talks aimed at persuading Iran to abandon its nuclear program and even has gone along with some sanctions enacted by the U.N. Security Council. But Russia's principal contribution has been to slow the process and resist meaningful sanctions, stringing the Bush administration along just enough to convince it that truly effective measures—sometime, somewhere down the road—might be possible. Iran's nuclear program has proceeded without inhibition. Meanwhile, Russian experts help develop Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant, and Russia sells Iran air-defense weapons it can use to protect its nuclear sites and anti-ship weapons it could use to menace Persian Gulf shipping traffic in the event of conflict. While the administration blames Iran and its proteges, including Hamas and Syria, for destabilizing the Middle East, Russia sells arms to all of them, and to Venezuela and Sudan.

None of this means that the United States should seek or welcome a new cold war with Russia. Russia could make life far more difficult for many of America's friends if it chose to do so, just as it could, if it chose, help combat terrorism and nuclear proliferation. But President Bush's imagined partnership with president-turned-prime-minister Vladimir Putin has been pretty much an empty husk for a long time. We hope and believe that the West would not under any circumstance barter away the independence or territorial integrity of a small, free and helpless nation in exchange for a promise of big-power cooperation. But when that promise is an illusion, the calculation should become even easier.

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Peace, love, Flower Power

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

Some years ago there was a movie produced called *Network*. One of the characters, a TV newscaster, Howard Beale, said, "I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take this any more." He called on his viewers to go outside and shout that slogan in unison, partly as protest, partly as catharsis. In due time he got millions of his viewers to stand outside and chant that slogan. It brought people together in a common cause and it announced their message to the powers that be. He claimed that getting mad was the only answer to their many problems.

In the spirit of that film we, the residents of Saipan, could do something similar. Now we could go outside and vent our anger and frustration about power outages but everyone is pretty much doing that already with no success. So I suggest we try something in a positive vein. We could go outside at noon tomorrow and shout out "Keep trying CUC, we know you can do it!" Why might we want to do that instead of continuing to carp? Because as individuals we are helpless to do anything about it short-term except give moral support to those trying to get the job done. (unless you are a billionaire philanthropist and want to donate a power plant). There are long-term solutions we citizens can help with but shouting revolutionary slogans will not get the job done.

Several people have written or spoken recently about how CUCs woes have been caused by poor management, bad planning, etc., and are not the fault of the day-to-day workers, the linemen or the plant workers or the secretaries in their offices, all of whom simply take their orders and carry them out as best they can. They, too, go home to find they can't cook dinner or finish their homework because the power is out. They, too, are in the middle of a shower or ready to flush about the time the lights dim and go out. I agree, and what's worse it can't be easy to keep up employee morale in a place where the prime mission—delivering reliable electric power and water—is not working too well (okay, is failing miserably).

Lack of money, lack of a coherent plan, lack of leadership, skyrocketing petroleum costs, lack of training, engines and delivery infrastructure worn out from wear and neglect. This is the mantra we've all heard chanted repeatedly as the cause of the electric power emergency we find ourselves in today. Collectively, they are the reason you can't watch TV tonight, or make toast tomorrow morning.

So how do we get out of the mess? Marching, suing or shouting in frustration isn't going to help. The temporary solution they are trying now is to rent some reliable generators and use that power to try and tide us over until the main engines can be repaired. I'm sure they would rather just go down to the generator store and order up a new power plant but our credit card is maxed out and the cash in the till won't even pay current expenses, not to mention make a major purchase.

Maybe we can get Uncle Sugar to help us out. Maybe we could get the U.S. military to help us out. Maybe we could apply for a loan at the World Bank or the IMF or the Asia Development fund or Household Finance Company or from Sam the Shark. The thing is, if we had that help in hand right now, today, it would be two years down the line before we see new engines or a new power plant or new alternative energy producers shining in the sun. Unless we can get the Electric Power Fairy to wave a wand over Lower Base and fix it all overnight, the strategy of using a temporary patch on the flat tire of power generation seems the best solution short term.

Once the temporary generators are in place we need to work like the dickens to fix those broken main engines so the power can stay on while other plans are made. Meanwhile we need to develop a long-range plan of action and decide once and for all what direction to go in the future. Maybe we could order three of those new generation nuclear power plants, one for each island. Maybe we could convert to coal like most of the rest of the world uses. Maybe we should opt for more of the same and buy a new petroleum-based

See PEACE on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Will the retirees' financial resources wind up a CUC 'money pot'? Let's hope not

Last of a two-part series

Regarding the proposal of the Retirement Fund's chair to consider investing in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., it must be remembered that the Fund is not the personal property of the board of trustees and they would be well advised to take extreme care in their management of Fund assets. They are obligated by law to seek out the optimum safe and secure investment opportunities for member assets and CUC is certainly not a desirable investment for the retirees' money (see responsibilities of fiduciaries below).

I call the reader's attention to the Annual Report for FY '92 issued to members of the Retirement Fund which states in pertinent part obligating the Board as follows:

"The Board will continue to maintain its fiduciary responsibility and continue to protect the integrity and soundness of the Fund. It will continue to ward off any and all attempts to impair the financial condition and solvency of the Retirement Fund. This includes benefit improvements for a select few at the expense of the majority of the members. It will continue to establish positive policies to improve and enhance the program and the benefits within the confines of responsible fiscal behavior. It will also establish policies toward better delivery of services to its members."

It is worth remembering that any local law which might attempt to absolve or indemnify Fund trustees of any abridgment of their fiduciary responsibilities is not in concrete until challenged and upheld in court.

If CUC needs money—and I'm certain it does—the utility should approach a bank for a loan that is established for that purpose or, failing bank approval, go back to CDA, which presumably was established for that purpose in the first place. If neither will lend the utility money, then why should the Retirement Fund?

Frankly, the whole thing is certainly not prudent investment management in my opinion. For the past several years the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth government has consistently and intentionally neglected to adhere to *1CMC, Div. 8, Chapter 4, Section 8342 and 1 CMC, Div. 8, Chapter 7, Section 8371(a) thru (f)* as related to its legal contributions to the Fund and possibly also payroll taxes collected under the mirror image of the IRS code for subsequent and timely deposit to the Fund's account for later use in the payment of pensions.

Nor have funds earmarked for the retirement account been available for investment in interest earning instruments. This lamentable situation has continued uncorrected without adequate relief for so many years it is tantamount to theft by omission and may possibly involve the abridgment of federal law as concerns the withholding of employee contributions generated from federally funded programs and projects. I am reminded what my dear sweet granny once said, "Billy, your mother may love you—but the federal government will not if you so much as illegally misuse one dollar."

In consideration of the above, why should the Fund invest any of the retirees' money in a government entity when the government itself has not honored its legal obligation to members of the Fund? Had the government upheld its part of its obligation and made the contributions to the Fund, which it was legally required to do but didn't? That money could then have been invested in interest earning instruments, thereby earning millions. Then—and only then—the Fund might have had money to invest. But the government didn't; it stiffed the retirees and now the Fund is itself too short of capital to help. Again, a sorry situation that goes right back to the central government's doorstep.

I expect any day to learn of the next ridiculous proposal from the central government to request that the many millions due the Fund as a result of failure on the part of the government to meet its financial obligation be considered as an investment in CUC and thus cancel, forgive, waive, annul and forget the central government's debt obligation to the Fund. Don't buy it!

As an invested "retiree client" and constituent of an unelected board of trustees (another thing which should be corrected), and as a pensioner along with several thousand others and their dependent families, the members are, indeed, the Fund's reason for existence. With actual experience as recipients of Fund performance the members should be permitted to introduce concerns relative to actions of both the central government, Legislature and Fund administrators regarding policies which could have, and often do have, an adverse impact on the overall long-term financial welfare of all retirees. After all, it's their money and they ought to have some say over decisions—or a least veto power.

For the legislators, I would like to call attention to the fact that of all the voters in the NMI, only two groups are easily united islandwide for purposes of veto power: PSS employees and the retirees and those members employed and still paying their share into the Fund's defined benefit plan. It's a "pocketbook issue" which should far outweigh party affiliation.

For members of the Fund reading this, realize that elected officials have woefully neglected their responsibility to the community over the years with respect to CUC and now they want retirees to pay for what they failed to do. Namely, provide "make-up" money to CUC under the disguise of an 'investment" to "hopefully"—cross your fingers—be repaid at some distant date far in the future in the form of dividends from CUC's profit earnings. Friends, that would not be an investment, it's a "giveaway" by another name. *(See Ms. Phyllis Ain's excellent piece titled, "Is Anyone Out There Listening?"* - Saipan Tribune *Archives, Aug. 5, 2008).*

The Fund chairman was quoted in a local paper as having stated the "Legislature has passed laws that have added to the fiscal emergency of the Fund," thus acknowledging that some laws have contributed to the deterioration of Fund's portfolio. He's right. It has been estimated that at the present rate of diminishment the Fund might possibly be broke sometime around the year 2016 or 2018, at which time there will still be a power plant in one form or another but, unfortunately, that can't be said for certain of the retirees' pensions. Here's a way to put that short time in perspective. Just imagine, the year 2016 is eight years away but it is only as distant from this year as the inauguration of the Babauta - Benavente team's inauguration is in the past. It's a period almost as close to us today as the millennium celebration that ushered in the 21st century, which is now in back of us if you remember that.

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

I invite any legislator or trustee of the Fund who disagrees with me to counter my accusations and opinions in writing in this media. I challenge them to find fault with my reasoning.

In conclusion, as an economist and for the record, I oppose any loan to, or investment in CUC. For those retirees who agree with me and are concerned about their future financial security I highly recommend that you contact your representative and the Fund's board of trustees and make your opinion known. It's your money and you have every right to express your opinion.

Finally, those readers who have followed any of my essays in this column might be interested in learning some of the fiduciary responsibilities of those entrusted with the management of other people's money. A publication (below) is available to help educate "stockholders" *(that's the members of the Fund)* about the fiduciary responsibilities of people who have the legal authority for exercising control over the funds of others *(that's the board of trustees)*. Several topics discussed include personal liability for fiduciaries, investment duties and case law. The handbook is a reference guide for trustees, members of investment committees and others. In the handling of money, when one acts as a trustee, there is a fiduciary responsibility owed to the principal party. It is defined as a relationship imposed by law where someone has agreed to act in the capacity of a "caretaker" of another's rights, assets and/or well-being. The fiduciary owes an obligation to carry out the responsibilities with the utmost degree of "good faith, honesty, integrity, loyalty and undivided service of the beneficiaries interest."[(1)] Good faith has been interpreted to impose an obligation to act reasonably in order to avoid negligent handling of the beneficiary's interests as well the duty not to favor anyone else's interest (including the trustees own interest) over that of the beneficiary. [(1)] *Source:* A Handbook for Investment Fiduciaries *published by the Foundation for Fiduciary Studies (www.ffstudies.org).*

As mentioned previously in this article, local laws passed with the intention of—or under the guise of—absolving trustees or others of their fiduciary responsibilities may not hold up when challenged in court since laws are always subject to being overturned. Ask your friendly neighborhood lawyer for confirmation.

Editor's Note: Previous articles concerning the Retirement Fund and other subjects are available online in the Saipan Tribune*'s archives and can be accessed by entering the author's name—William Stewart—in the website's Search bar.*

Letters to the Editor

Power generation on Tinian

Sen. Paul Manglona is right on with his suggestion to move the surplus 10 megawatts of power generation on Tinian to Saipan. As the good senator from Rota noted, Telesource has already made this option known to CUC. That is because the entire Tinian power plant built by Telesource becomes the property of CUC this coming February, assuming that CUC makes its final payment. It is a logical move.

It is hard to understand why every single member of the Tinian delegation signed off on the Aggreko deal, further increasing Tinian power rates with nothing in return for the people of Tinian, while the Telesource opportunity was at hand.

A reduction in the size of the Tinian fossil fuel power generation facility is in the best interest of both the people of Tinian and the CNMI. Right now, the entire 20 megawatt facility must be maintained, even though only approximately 5 megawatts are being consumed. The maintenance of the unused portion increases our power rates unnecessarily. Sending the surplus to Saipan will help relieve the power woes on Saipan and allow the full use of the generators, thus making the cost of maintenance effective.

At the same time the power plants are transferred, we would ask Senator Paul to support legislation to create the Tinian Utilities Corp., separate from CUC. This will allow us to create a rate for power consumers on Tinian that reflects only the cost of power generation and distribution on Tinian, without the cost of maintenance, repair and upgrading the Saipan facility.

More important still, by creating the independent Tinian Utilities Corp., Tinian will be able to immediately take advantage of alternate energy options. When the alternate energy source kicks in, our power rates will be among the lowest, if not the lowest, in the western Pacific. This will encourage businesses to invest their dollars on Tinian, CNMI. This will benefit not only the people, but also the people of the CNMI as all revenues generated on Tinian, outside of the casinos, are deposited in the CNMI general fund.

Again, kudos to Senator Paul and I do hope his colleagues will support him and follow through with the movement of the Tinian generators to Saipan and the creation of the Tinian Utilities Corp.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

A hotdog for a signature

I want to write a letter to retract my signing the petition against the proposed marine monument. I signed the petition in exchange for a free hotdog and did not understand what I was signing.

I signed the petition when the carnival was going on. My mom had a booth and I was helping her out. Herman Tudela had a tent down there and he called me over to sign his petition. I didn't understand what the petition was for, but he told me that I could have a hotdog if I signed.

I wasn't hungry, but I still wanted the hotdog, so I signed.

Later when I was talking to one of my cousins he explained to me about the monument. Now that I understand it, I totally support the monument.

I would like to retract my signature and urge the indigenous to support conservation and the marine monument. I would also like to say sorry to all the other supporters for giving away my signature for something as small as a hotdog.

Richard Dela Cruz
Fina Sisu, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

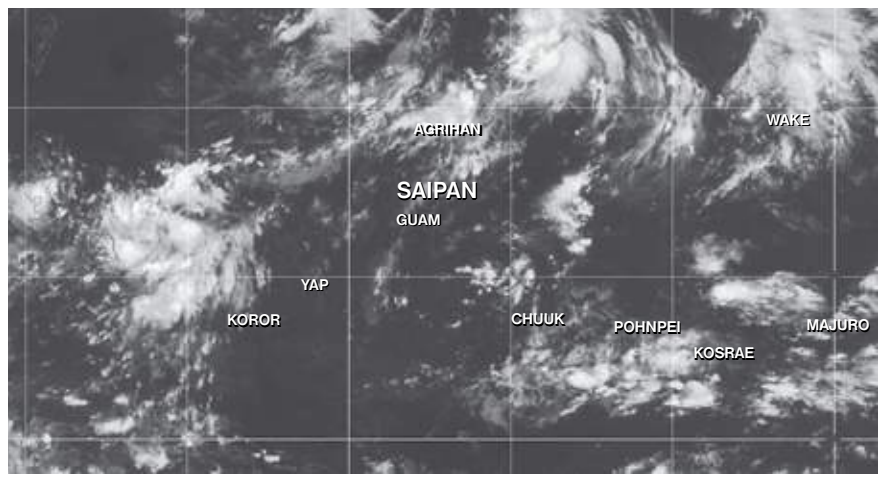
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲59	▼55
Beijing	Cloudy	▲84	▼72
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲90	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Cloudy	▲75	▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲81	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲60	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼63
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼74
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼63
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼67
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼63
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲77	▼57
Seoul	Cloudy	▲84	▼63
Tokyo	Showers	▲83	▼71
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from a circulation centered northwest of Koror near 12N130E to a weaker circulation centered near 25N145E then eastward to end at 24N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extend outward about 200 miles from the circulation. Winds converging near the trough are creating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Iwo To or within 100 miles of 25N139E. Converging southwest winds east of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the northern CNMI from 17N to 20N between 142E and 150E and near Minami Tori Shima from 21N to 25N between 150E and 154E. An upper-level low is currently centered north of Wake Island near 24N164E. Upper-level divergence southeast of the low is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of a line from 17N164E to 17N171E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering a broad area of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms eastward from south of Chuuk to the dateline southeast of Majuro between 2N and 6N from 149E to 180. This area includes Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands. Another area of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms is found over Kwajalein and northeast of Majuro between 8N and 11N from 162E to 179E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:25AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:37AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
5:31PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:57PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	6:04AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	6:04AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:04AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:03AM	2:41PM
Wednesday	2:08AM	3:39PM
Thursday	3:12AM	4:32PM
Friday	4:14AM	5:20PM
Saturday	5:31AM	6:42PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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Letters to the Editor

Stanley and Howard sitting in darkness?

What happens daily to today's typical CNMI resident has now reached the upper echelons of this society. A power outage stopped Thursday's meeting of the perhaps finest minds of our Commonwealth. Perhaps this outage demonstrates that even the CNMI's rich and powerful and as well as its 1970s architect of this government, Howard Willens (midwifed and birthed by the man himself), can be reached and touched by our collapsing government appendages.

Given the myriad voices of dissent and dissatisfaction with government executive, judicial and legislative operations and operatives through the media and at drinking holes, I am reminded of Jean Renoir's film *Grand Illusion*, which depicted the collapse of the 19th century European political and social institutions with the onset of World War I and its major forces for change. In Kassel Wintersborn, Commandant Rauffenstein (Eric Stronheim) tries to run the redoubt POW camp as a country club for POW gentlemen of his class and POW foreign commoners. He fails to recognize the new conditions, the new world order being born, and continues his living the illusion of the old order. And the structure, of course, is plagued with escape, dissent, death and chaos.

And, as I imagine, here we have Howard Willens, midwife of the Commonwealth so to speak, standing at the Legislature in the dark, flashlights on and someone looking for the main power panel, in the midst of the collapsing major money generator institutions (CUC/CPA/CDA/NMRIF, etc.), mumbling something like, "This will pass," I'm sure. It is just a matter of time and some more money. Isn't it?

Our upper classes (those in government earning over $70,000 per annum) who control the Legislature, Executive, Judicial branches and control the government hiring and board appointees have finally been touched by the collapse of the keystone institution CUC and all its history of mismanagement and politics. They can no longer stand above or apart from the economic plunge and the moral decay of our political institutions.

The current CNMI government structures might appear to be made of concrete and immutable but it is an illusion if we think the conditions of the 1970s that formed them have not changed. As the notions of chivalry and friendship of Commandant Rauffenstein proved unworkable in the new world order of the 1900s the notions of the politics of enrichment for family and self in CNMI, the old-style politicians and their notions about how to get votes for access to office and into the public treasury, will die. A government staffed with one employee for every two voters, a bicameral Legislature with 19 representatives or one for every 650 voters, there are no government operations budgets and the island lights are off with growing frequency and duration.

There is, however, a growing sense of change in the air. Not just from the grumbling older residents but from the younger generation who are saying, "no mas." It can and should be the end of the old order, the structures and attitudes, whose roots lie in the Trust Territory institutions.

The collapsing CNMI government structures and their appendages must change or be deliberately changed to fit this new era. The question is whether the Stanleys and the Howards now caught in a blackout can contribute to the step into a 21st century Commonwealth.

George Haberman
Upper Sadog Tasi, Saipan

Public relations coup

The fact that over 1,000 newspapers around the world ran stories on Presidents Bush's recent decision to name our three most remote and pristine Northern Islands off limits to commercial fishing and mineral exploration is an environmental and public relations victory for all of today's CNMI residents and all other island residents in the future.

This historic action will enable our children's children to still enjoy the pleasure of having fish and seafood to eat...50 or 100 years from now.

Bryan Jones
Navy Hill, Saipan

Recognition for the Marianas

I read with pride in the paper about the Marianas being selected as one of the finalists for a marine monument. It is about time we were recognized for our unique natural environments.

What a beautiful gift we can give to our children. I say this as a father of eight…and soon to be nine. This is such an opportunity for my children and their children for education and jobs, while protecting our oceans.

I hear about people saying that the indigenous do not support this. Who are they talking about? Everyone I know supports this idea.

Jesus Cruz Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

PEACE

From Page 10

power plant even in the face of rising fuel costs. There are other alternatives, too, but the point is we need to look at the options and make a firm decision and then carry that plan out if we are ever to really solve the power problem that stares us in the face. To get there at all, we need to go to the private sector to get the job done and not rely on the government anymore. The alternative to planning and execution is to get used to cooking over a wood fire and going to bed at sunset.

Why bitch when it accomplishes nothing? Let's get on the "we're behind you" bandwagon and give as much support to the hundreds of hardworking CUC employees as we can. These worker bees are all that stands between us and the real world of lives without electricity right now. We and our businesses and institutions have evolved too far and gotten too soft to live without it anymore.

Getting mad about it may have worked in the movie mentioned above but here in reality land we just need to help all we can, plan the best we can and then execute our plan without quitting. Divesting CUC from its government overlord is the first step in the healing process. As we have seen, you can't legislate your way out of the problem and you can't cure it by executive fiat. Let's approach the problem like grown ups, responsible for our own actions.

In closing I will relate what my 4-year-old said just after the power went off the other night. Standing in the yard shaking his fist at the sky he said "____ing CUC! (expletive deleted). It seems that the outage interfered with Pooh while he was explaining math skills via DVD. When the power went off, so did my son. I can't imagine where he heard such language.

Quote of the week: "Government never furthered any enterprise but by the alacrity with which it got out of its way."

—Henry David Thoreau
(1817 – 1862)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
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OVERSTAYERS REPORT

August 26, 2008, first publication
September 2, 2008, second publication

Notice is hereby given that according to the records maintained by the Commonwealth, as of June 30, 2008, the following persons have overstayed the permission granted upon their entry to the Commonwealth. Persons in an overstayer status are required to depart the Commonwealth immediately.

Persons who have overstayed but who leave the Commonwealth voluntarily are eligible to return to the Commonwealth and may apply for jobs via the Department of Labor website from overseas. Persons who have been notified of their overstayer status and do not depart voluntarily are subject to arrest by the Immigration Division and deportation, in which case they may not ever again enter the Commonwealth. This rule is the same in the U.S.

Permissions granted upon entry may have been extended or the entry status may be changed under a number of different provisions of Commonwealth law, but all extensions and changes must be documented and the applicable fees paid. If the necessary applications and supporting documents have not been correctly completed or filed or recorded, a name may appear in overstayer status although upon completion or recording of the necessary documentation an extension will be granted.

If your name is on the list set out below and you have or should have a current permission or a current status allowing you to be in the Commonwealth, please report to Evelyn Sablan, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Labor, Department of Labor, second floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio before September 30, 2008 to correct the records.

Name	Citizen	Name	Citizen	Name	Citizen
ABAGA, GENER C.	PHL	LIN, CHUN MEI	CHN	RAJAPPA, ANANDANARAYANAN	IND
ABAN, BERNARDO JR. R.	PHL	LIN, HAISHU	CHN	REDIMO, OFELIA OLAVARIO	PHL
ANGELES, BENJAMIN C.	PHL	LIN, JINPING	CHN	ROSAS, PRISCILLA ABUAN	PHL
BARUA, MARISA MACAYAN	PHL	LIN, QINGFAN	CHN	RUTOR, THANDY VILLANUEVA	PHL
BAUTISTA, ROSANNA P.	PHL	LIN, YONG	CHN	SALAZAR, JULIANA CONDE	PHL
BRIONES, MAY V.	PHL	LIU, GUI HUA	CHN	SANCHEZ, JOSEPHINE S.	PHL
BUCU, MA VICTORIA DELA CRUZ,	PHL	LIU, HAIYUN	CHN	SANTIAGO, MA THERESA	PHL
CAIREL, IMELDA BANO	PHL	LONTHAISONG, RADDA	THA	SAPITIN, CARMELITA C.	PHL
CAJIS, OLIVIA TOTANES	PHL	LU, GUANGPING	CHN	SHEN, CHENGNAN	CHN
CALACSAN, PATERNO REYES	PHL	LU, HONG MEI	CHN	SHIDA, YASUE	JPN
CAO, TINGWEI	CHN	LU, JIANGUO	CHN	SIBUG, CONRADO JR. MANALO	PHL
CAPATI, FIDEL MARTINEZ	PHL	LU, JIN	CHN	SONG, GUOPING	CHN
CASA, ELPIDIO JR. TANGLAO	PHL	LU, YINXIANG	CHN	SONG, YUPING	CHN
CAUSON, RUEL D. B.	PHL	LU, YUAN	CHN	SU, YUCONG	CHN
CHEN, JUNQING	CHN	LUAT, ARMANDO GILE	PHL	TEJADA, ALFREDO PASCUAL	PHL
CHEN, XINQU	CHN	MALAPITAN, HERMINIANO JR. A.	PHL	VALERIO, PEDRO H.	PHL
DADOY, RENATO ABAD	PHL	MALUYO, MEDARDO SANCHEZ	PHL	VALIENTE, ROBERT DOMINGUEZ	PHL
DAET, RUFINA OSTONAL	PHL	MANEEBOO, YAOWATIDA	THA	VELLASAMY, MUTHU	IND
DAI, GUOSHU	CHN	MANGULABNAN, LEO M.	PHL	VILLAREAL, ZENAIDA M.	PHL
DARAG, MELBA BADAL	PHL	MARTINEZ, CRISPIN L.	PHL	VILLAVICENCIO, JOANNA D.	PHL
DASMARINAS, NATHALIE LIMBO	PHL	MATIAS, LANIE B.	PHL	WANG, WEN JUAN	CHN
DE CHAVEZ, FLORENCIA BAES	PHL	MAURICIO, TERESITA F.	PHL	WANG, YAN	CHN
DE GUIA, LUCILA H.	PHL	MEN, CHEN TECK	MYS	WANG, ZHENG YUE	CHN
DE LARA, MERCEDITA AGUILAR	PHL	MENDOZA, REYNALDO M.	PHL	WEI, WEI	CHN
DELA CRUZ, JOHNSON C.	PHL	MENG, ZHAOHONG	CHN	WU, YUEQIN	CHN
DELAS ALAS, ALEXANDER DE CASTRO	PHL	MESA, ANITA AQUINO	PHL	XIAO, YANGYANG	CHN
DEOCARES, IMELDA ESTOLAS	PHL	MONTOYA, JOVIN BONDOC	PHL	XIE, LINGLING	CHN
DINGSON, FERDINAND LUBIANO	PHL	MUNEZ, ELNORA CAFE	PHL	XIE, XIAOQING	CHN
DOMINGUEZ, MIRIAM VILLANUEVA	PHL	NITRO, GREGORIO MANDOCDOC	PHL	XU, SHEN MIN	CHN
DUMAOANG, JEAN D.	PHL	NOCHE, CRISANTA C.	PHL	XU, XIANG	CHN
EDRIS	BGD	OCAMPO, JULIE CHRISTINE ROSAS	PHL	XU, XIONGJIE	CHN
FLORES, CLARIBEL LANNU	PHL	OTSUKA, MASATOSHI	JPN	YAN, XIAOYAN	CHN
GALUTERA, MARGIE DELEON	PHL	PAN, JINHUA	CHN	YIN, GUOLIAN	CHN
GANIA, ULYSSES EVANGELISTA	PHL	PANG, SHUANG	CHN	YU, JUAN	CHN
GU, JIANHUA	CHN	PARALLAG, BENITA M.	PHL	YU, YANLONG	CHN
GUCILATAR, PEDRO RUTAS	PHL	PARAN, ROSEMARIE ERAL	PHL	ZENG, XIAOBO	CHN
GUEVARRA, EDWIN M.	PHL	PARK, KOUN SOUK	KOR	ZHANG, CHANGFENG	CHN
GUTIERREZ, ARNEL C.	PHL	PASCUA, MA. SONIA L.	PHL	ZHANG, LIQIN	CHN
JAVIER, AMALIA ESGUERRA	PHL	PASCUAL, MILAGROS	PHL	ZHANG, PING	CHN
JIN, HAO	CHN	PENAFIEL, ALEXIS C.	PHL	ZHANG, TINGTING	CHN
KEONG, YEE CHEE	SGP	PEPITO, JEANETTE S.	PHL	ZHANG, XIAO YAN	CHN
KIM, KWHANG HO	KOR	PUNO, ARNULFO S.	PHL	ZHOU, XIAOMIN	CHN
LEGUA, BONIFACIO A.	PHL	QIU, GUANGMAN	CHN	ZHOU, YINCHENG	CHN
LI, DONGJI	CHN	QIU, SHUMEI	CHN	ZHU, GUOZHONG	CHN
LIAN, SHENG	CHN	RAENGKHRUT, KAWINTHIP	THA		

Business

Lone accountant takes on IRS and wins

WASHINGTON (AP)—It took seven years, but Charles Ulrich did something many people dream about, but few succeed at: He beat the IRS in a tax dispute.

Not only that, but tax experts say potentially millions of other taxpayers could benefit from his victory.

The accountant from Baxter, Minn., challenged the method the IRS has used for more than 20 years to tax shares and cash distributed by mutual life insurance firms to their policyholders when they reorganize as public companies.

A federal court recently agreed with his interpretation.

"There's a tremendous amount of money at stake," said Robert Willens, a New York City-based tax analyst at Robert Willens LLC. "Tens of thousands of people could be in line for a refund."

Don Alexander, an IRS commissioner in the 1970s and now a tax attorney in Washington, said while it's not unusual for individuals to take on the agency, "most of them lose."

Alexander called it "quite a significant case."

The dispute arose when more than 30 mutual life insurance companies became publicly traded corporations in the late 1990s and earlier this decade, in a process known as "demutualization."

Mutual companies are owned by their policyholders, so the companies provided stock and cash to compensate them for the loss of their ownership interests when they went public.

All told, roughly 30 million policyholders received distributions, Ulrich estimates. MetLife Inc. provided over $7 billion of stock to about 11 million policyholders when it went public in 2000, while Prudential distributed $12.5 billion in stock to another 11 million.

The IRS held that the recipients hadn't paid anything for the shares and owed taxes on the full amount when the shares were sold. Cash distributions also were fully taxable, the IRS said. That didn't sound right to Ulrich, 72, an accountant for 49 years. He began researching the issue in 2001, when he received shares from two companies, Prudential and Indianapolis Life.

Ulrich concluded that policyholders had paid for their ownership rights through their premiums so the distributions should have been tax-free.

That could make a significant difference in what a taxpayer owes. If a company distributed shares worth $30 and a recipient subsequently sold them at $32, under the IRS' view they would pay taxes on all $32. Under Ulrich's interpretation, they would owe taxes only on the $2 per share gain.

In 2003, Ulrich publicized his views by contacting tax and insurance experts and setting up a Web site.

"Largely I was regarded as a lunatic," he said, who "would never prevail against the IRS."

Still, some people who'd paid taxes contacted Ulrich and asked him to file refund requests, which he did, for a fee. Some of those refunds were granted, he said. Tax experts say the IRS doesn't always closely scrutinize small refunds.

One of his clients, Jean Prevost and her husband, Jim, who live near Minneapolis, received a refund of almost $1,500 in federal and state taxes in 2003. "It wasn't a huge amount of money, but it was ours," she said.

AP

In this Feb. 25, 2005 file photo, Charles Ulrich talks about taxes from his Baxter, Minn. home.

Bush blames Democrats for high gas prices

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP)—President Bush on Saturday blamed the Democratic-led Congress for the high cost of gasoline and renewed his call for expanded offshore drilling to increase U.S. oil supplies.

"To reduce pressure on prices, we need to increase the supply of oil, especially oil produced here at home," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

■■■

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—A national survey shows gas prices have dropped 15 cents a gallon in the last two weeks. The average price of a gallon of regular gasoline at self-serve stations was $3.70 Friday. Mid-grade was at $3.83 and premium was at $3.95. That's according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations nationwide, released Sunday. Diesel was at $3.82. The California average was $3.94, down 16 cents from two weeks ago. Gas was cheapest in St. Louis, Mo., at $3.37 for a gallon of regular. It was most expensive in Anchorage, Alaska, at $4.34. Despite the drop, gas nationally was almost 95 cents higher than a year ago. Prices so far this summer peaked July 11 at $4.11 for a gallon for regular.

■■■

Congress left for the August recess without a solution to fuel prices. In a bid to force a vote on offshore drilling, Republicans blocked Democratic proposals to use the nation's petroleum reserve, curb oil speculation and require oil companies to drill on already leased federal lands.

The president, who is vacationing at his Texas ranch, said Americans support expanded exploration of oil in areas that include the Outer Continental Shelf. The shelf is the shallow, sloping land that stretches for miles undersea between the coastline and the deep ocean.

New oil drilling is only allowed now in federal waters in the western Gulf of Mexico and off Alaska.

BOG launches 6th calendar photo contest

High school students eligible for cash prizes

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam said yesterday that its sixth Annual Calendar Photo Contest is now underway.

Contest guidelines are as follows:

■ Theme: Keeping our islands green

■ Medium: Minimum 4X6 Print in color or black and white. For digital photos, please copy to a CD and include a printed copy of the photo.

■ Eligibility: Open to all high school students throughout Guam, CNMI, Republic of Belau, the FSM and the RMI. Photo must be taken by the student.

■ Deadline: Friday, Oct. 24, 2008

Cash prizes will be awarded for the Cover Photo ($250) and each Month's Photo ($150). Each student is limited to two photos each. Entry forms are available at all high schools, Bank of Guam branches and its website www.bankofguam.com.

The Bank of Guam prints 15,000 copies of its annual calendar, which is distributed throughout its branch network for customers at no charge. The calendar is also sent to deployed troops.

The Bank of Guam features the winning photos on its website, www.bankofguam.com.

For more information, contact Kebrina Duenas at 472-5236 or kebrina.duenas@bankofguam.com. ***(BoG)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

This week, investors eye oil prices, spending data

NEW YORK (AP)—It was another seesaw week on Wall Street, but it ended with a jolt of good news: a $6-a-barrel tumble in oil. This week, investors will be watching to see if crude extends its drop or bounces back up again. Last week, the Dow Jones industrial average finished down 0.27 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500 index ended 0.47 percent lower, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 1.54 percent. The Dow again had several triple-digit point moves. On Monday, the National Association of Realtors reports on existing home sales for July, and then Tuesday, Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller release their June home price index and the Commerce Department posts its new home sales data for July. Economists expect existing home sales to have risen last month, but new home sales to have dipped.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Clueless about trading? Start networking online

By CANDICE CHOI
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Erin O'Brien and her friends are do-it-yourself investors.

As part of an online community at the brokerage Zecco, they consult each other on terminology, tax law and investment philosophy. Having tagged each other as "friends," they can see each other's trades. Together, they're learning the ropes by watching and interacting with fellow users.

Zecco and TradeKing, which tout themselves as among the first brokerages to offer online social networking, are now adding functions that go beyond the typical discussion board. Traders at both companies can reveal their portfolios and see how their performance rates among other users.

Just a year after O'Brien started trading, the 27-year-old teacher from San Francisco is ranked in the 20th percentile of Zecco traders with a 16.6 percent return on investment.

"This adds a competitive aspect, which can be motivating," said O'Brien, who invests about $200 each month. She limits herself to the 10 free trades allowed monthly by Zecco, and views the account as a learning tool—investing only what she can afford to lose.

O'Brien can research the shares of a company by identifying which of her friends own the stock. This also reveals the other stocks in their portfolios, which gives her additional investment possibilities to look into. Over at TradeKing, users can add notes explaining why they made particular trades. And now, larger firms like Scottrade Inc. and TD Ameritrade Holding Corp. are introducing social networking functions. By letting clients interact online, brokerages are encouraging newcomers who might otherwise be leery of diving into an unfamiliar arena

Unlike chat rooms and message boards, brokerage sites verify users' identities, reducing the tendency for spam or scams to superficially drive up stocks. For those who know zilch about stocks, it's a space where no question is too basic (What, for example, is a dividend?). The idea of people gathering to talk about stocks is nothing new. Investment clubs, which usually consist of a small group of people who meet periodically, have been around for decades. But their popularity has declined, with only 13,000 such clubs in the country today, down dramatically from 20,000 in 2002, according to the National Association of Investors Corp.

Online groups not only give access to a bigger pool of people, but also let users participate on their own time

It's no wonder groups such as "Afraid to Trade," "Newbies," and "Beginning Investors" are among the most frequented on Zecco and TradeKing

In fact, the most popular discussion thread at Zecco is for "New Investors." On TradeKing, a popular recent forum was "Need A Mentor." "(The chat rooms) let me know what to look up, where to go," said Kim Seiniger, a 52-year-old executive in the music industry. Seiniger, a resident of Woodland Hills, Calif., is tagged as one of O'Brien's friends.

Seiniger, who says she's still learning about trading, has more than $15,000 of her disposable income invested in stocks. She uses the groups as a starting point to find answers, but does her own research too.

As a featured investor, she's also gotten plenty of questions. The most frequent question from new investors is how to know when to buy and sell. Seiniger's answer: Don't ever get emotional—stick to whatever trading philosophy you've decided to follow.

Not surprisingly, the ranks of users taking part in online brokerage communities is rising. Zecco says a third of its 85,000 users are now active in community groups. Over at TradeKing, about 10 percent of its 100,000 users are active in groups—meaning they not only visit forums, but set up public profiles.

Scottrade's online community—which was officially launched last week—is a response to customer demand for more education and information, said Kristin McDougall, a company spokeswoman.

TD Ameritrade is also rolling out social networking features by the end of the year.

"In real life, traders typically congregate and become better traders by sharing knowledge. If you put them online, they'll chat as well," said Jay Pestrichelli, managing director for TD Ameritrade's trading group.

Beginners aren't the only ones firing up discussions on brokerage sites. Other groups focus on women, retirees and penny stock lovers. There's even one group on TradeKing called "I Keep Investing in Stocks I Know I Shouldn't."

Nation

Plane crash in Utah kills pilot, 9 clinic workers

MOAB, Utah (AP)—It had already been a long day when Dr. Lansing Ellsworth and his team of dermatology specialists climbed aboard a twin-engine plane in southeastern Utah, ready to return home to their families 200 miles away. But shortly after takeoff Friday evening, their Beech King Air A-100 crashed in the nearby hills and exploded. All 10 people on board were killed.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Tealeye Cornejo said the investigation will be difficult because much of the plane burned.

"The fire was so intense, there's not a lot of it left," she said.

On board were employees of Southwest Skin and Cancer/Red Canyon Aesthetics & Medical Spa, a dermatology company based in Cedar City. Moab was one of nine regular stops the team made traveling in Utah, northern Arizona and Nevada, providing skin treatment that might not otherwise be available in small, remote communities.

They had gotten an early start Friday, flying east to Moab so they could spend the day at a clinic there dedicated to the prevention and treatment of skin cancer.

"They felt it was a need they could service," said Dane Leavitt, a friend of many on the trip and CEO of the company that owned the plane. "Our hearts are broken."

Grand County Sheriff James Nyland identified the dead as pilot David White; the company's director, Lansing Ellsworth, 50, and his son Dallin, 23; David Goddard, 60, and his daughter Cecilee, 31; Mandy Johnson; Marcie Tillery, 29; Valerie Imlay, 52; Keith Shumway, 29; and Camie Vigil, 25.

"It is with disbelief that we struggle to comprehend the events of yesterday," the Ellsworth family said in a statement Saturday. Those on the trip with Southwest Skin and Cancer "provided much needed dermatology care to patients who might otherwise go without."

Linda Snow, the company's office manager in Cedar City, said, "We are just deeply saddened. These are individuals that were highly skilled and very professional in what they do, and they will be missed."

AP

Burned wreckage of a small plane lies on a hillside Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, northwest of Moab, Utah.

Winter weather? Almanac says 'Numb's the word!'

LEWISTON, Maine (AP)—People worried about the high cost of keeping warm this winter will draw little comfort from the Farmers' Almanac, which predicts below-average temperatures for most of the U.S.

"Numb's the word," says the 192-year-old publication, which claims an accuracy rate of 80 to 85 percent for its forecasts that are prepared two years in advance.

The almanac's 2009 edition, which goes on sale Tuesday, says at least two-thirds of the country can expect colder-than-average temperatures this winter, with only the Far West and Southeast in line for near-normal readings.

"This is going to be catastrophic for millions of people," said almanac editor Peter Geiger.

The almanac predicts above-normal snowfall for the Great Lakes and Midwest, especially during January and February, and above-normal precipitation for the Southwest in December and for the Southeast in January and February. The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions will likely have an unusually wet or snowy February, the almanac said.

In contrast, the usually wet Pacific Northwest could be a bit drier than normal in February.

Looking ahead to summer, the almanac foresees near-normal temperatures in most places. But much of the Southwest should prepare for unusually hot weather in June and July, while Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas will get oppressive July heat and humidity.

The almanac—not to be confused with the New Hampshire-based Old Farmer's Almanac which is 26 years older—attributes its forecasts to reclusive prognosticator Caleb Weatherbee, who uses a secret formula based on sunspots, the position of the planets and the tidal action of the moon.

Weatherbee's outlook is borne out by e-mails the almanac has received in recent days from readers who have spotted signs of nature they say point to a rough winter, Geiger said. These folklore signs range from an abundance of acorns already on the ground to the frequency of fog in August.

Clinton expected to release delegates Wednesday

DENVER (AP)—Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, hoping to unite the Democratic Party and cement her future in it, will gather her hard-won primary delegates Wednesday at a reception where she is expected to formally release them to Barack Obama.

The New York senator has invited her pledged delegates to a reception at the Colorado Convention Center, not far from the main Democratic National Convention arena. The high-profile gathering of political regulars who once fought against Obama serves a dual purpose for Clinton: Show fellow Democrats that she can be a team player, and display her still-formidable political strengths for the future. Many of her supporters want her to run for president again.

A Democratic official told The Associated Press Sunday, a day before the convention begins, that she is expected to release her delegates at the Wednesday event. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss details publicly.

Asked about Clinton's plans for the event, her spokesman Philippe Reines said it will be "an opportunity for Senator Clinton to see her delegates—many for the first time since the primaries ended, thank them for their hard work and support, and most importantly to encourage them to support and work for Senator Obama as strongly as she has in order to elect him in November."

At an appearance in Fresno, California, for the United Farm Workers, Clinton declined to comment on her plans for the Wednesday event. She praised Obama's newly-minted running mate Joe Biden, another sign of party loyalty.

Kidnap suspect calls days with daughter 'glorious'

BOSTON (AP)—The man who calls himself Clark Rockefeller and is accused of kidnapping his young daughter says he spent "six glorious and wonderful days" with the girl while evading authorities, but he still isn't talking about his life before 1993.

Police say Rockefeller is really a German immigrant named Christian Gerhartsreiter. California authorities want to question him about a couple who disappeared in 1985.

Gerhartsreiter has pleaded not guilty to charges of kidnapping his daughter, Reigh Boss, on a Boston street during a supervised visit in July after losing custody of her to his ex-wife, Sandra Boss.

In a jail interview with The Boston Globe, Gerhartsreiter said he decided to take Reigh the day before the supervised visit, but police say he spent months planning the alleged kidnapping. He was captured in early August in Baltimore, where police said was hoping to start a new life.

"We had such a wonderful time," Gerhartsreiter, 48, said in the interview in the Globe's Sunday editions. "It was my six days of being—well, it was like a trance. It was so wonderful. It was so great to be with my daughter again."

AP

In this image released by NBC News, correspondent Natalie Morales, left, is shown during a jailhouse interview with Clark Rockefeller, Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008, at Suffolk County Jail in Boston.

During the interview, supervised by his attorney Stephen Hrones, Gerhartsreiter insisted his name was Clark Rockefeller. He portrayed himself as a doting father who read poetry to his daughter and taught her to read newspapers and scientific journals before she was 3.

Representatives of the Rockefeller family say Gerhartsreiter is not related to the descendants of John D. Rockefeller. He said his Rockefeller name was given to him by a man named Harry Copeland, who he described as his godfather from New York who died in the late 1990s.

Hrones deflected any questions about Gerhartsreiter's life before 1993, including the time authorities say he spent renting a guesthouse in San Marino, a wealthy Los Angeles suburb.

California authorities want to question Gerhartsreiter about the 1985 disappearance of newlyweds Jonathan and Linda Sohus. The guesthouse was owned by the mother of Jonathan Sohus.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man who supplied strippers to NY teen bash is shot

SLEEPY HOLLOW, N.Y. (AP)—The owner of a stripper business that made headlines after an infamous high school party in upscale Westchester County has been shot as he escorted strippers to a bachelor bash. Sleepy Hollow police say Anthony "Cousin Vinny" Agnello was shot in the thigh during an attempted robbery Friday night. Agnello says two men tried to steal more than $100,000 worth of jewelry but fled empty-handed. Agnello has been treated at an area hospital. No arrests have been made. Agnello's business, World Famous Cousin Vinny's Gorgeous Strippers, supplied strippers for a 2001 high school football team party in Chappaqua.

FBI: Couple offered sex with girl, 5, for used car

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—A San Antonio couple is accused of trying to trying to trade sex with the woman's 5-year-old daughter for an apartment, a used car and child care for her 10-month old daughter. Jennifer Richards, 25, and her married boyfriend, Sean Michael Block, 40, appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Stein Nowak on Friday. According to an affidavit unsealed last Tuesday, the investigation began when an informant told the FBI about a text message allegedly sent by Block reading: "Nice piece 5 yrs old belongs to my gf and she wants to sell it." Richards and Block crafted a deal that, in addition to the apartment and used car, included child care for Richards' 10-month-old daughter, whose sexual service the couple intended to sell later, Rex Miller, the FBI's lead agent on the case, testified. The couple had also hoped to blackmail the informant, Miller said.

NJ congressman helps kids stranded in Georgia

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. (AP)—When Russian troops invaded the Republic of Georgia this month, two little girls from New Jersey visiting their grandparents there were stranded behind a series of checkpoints Two weeks later, Chris Smith, the congressman from their home district worked with officials from several nations—including the French ambassador to Georgia—to reunite the girls with their father at the U.S embassy. Tea-h Evans of Howell said her young daughters wouldn't be on their way home if it wasn't for Smith's diplomatic efforts. "That man, what he did is a miracle," said Evans, a chef who was born in Georgia who came to the U.S. about a decade ago

Fla. homes evacuated as waters rise in wake of Fay

MIAMI (AP)—The remnants of Tropical Storm Fay lingered Sunday, forcing residents in several parts of northern Florida to leave their homes as floodwaters rose. Officials used boats to ferry people from homes in DeBary, 25 miles north of Orlando, where some streets were under four feet of water, and from several neighborhoods in and around Tallahassee. About 70 homes in DeBary were under an evacuation order after ponds spilled over. A handful of people were taken out by boat, while others were able to leave on their own, county emergency officials said Fay made landfall a record four times in Florida before it was downgraded to a tropical depression late Saturday.

Asia

AP

Rescuers and investigators work at the crash site of a Boeing 737 passenger jet, 10 kilometers (6 miles) from Manas International Airport near the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek, few hours after the crash, early Monday, Aug. 25, 2008.

68 die in Kyrgyzstan plane crash

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP)—A passenger jet carrying 90 people, including a Kyrgyz high school sports team, crashed shortly after takeoff Sunday near the Kyrgyz capital, killing 68, government officials said. The Boeing 737 was headed to Iran when it crashed near Bishkek's Manas International Airport, said government spokeswoman Roza Daudova. Twenty-two people, including two crew members, survived the accident.

Earlier, Daudova, had said there were at least 71 dead and 25 survivors, but she later gave lower figures.

An airport official said the crew reported a technical problem about 10 minutes into the flight and that the plane was returning to the airport when it crashed. The official said she was not authorized to give her name.

Officials said the crash followed the sudden decompression of the jet, which came down in a field near a village.

Among the survivors, were seven out the 17 members of the basketball team from a school in the capital, Bishkek, said Health Ministry spokeswoman Yelena Bayalinova. Presidential adviser Tokon Mamytov, however, later said that the athletes were volleyball, not basketball players.

Tally: 101 US deaths in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban insurgents once derided as a ragtag rabble unable to match U.S. troops have transformed into a fighting force—one advanced enough to mount massive conventional attacks and claim American lives at a record pace.

The U.S. military suffered its 101st death of the year in Afghanistan last week when Sgt. 1st Class David J. Todd Jr., a 36-year-old from Marrero, La., died of gunfire wounds while helping train Afghan police in the northwest. The total number of U.S. dead last year—111—was a record itself and is likely to be surpassed.

Top U.S. generals, European presidents and analysts say the blame lies to the east, in militant sanctuaries in neighboring Pakistan. As long as those areas remain havens where fighters arm, train, recruit and plot increasingly sophisticated ambushes, the Afghan war will continue to sour.

"The U.S. is now losing the war against the Taliban," Anthony Cordesman, of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, wrote in a report Thursday. A resurgent al-Qaida, which was harbored by the Taliban in the years before the Sept. 11 attacks, could soon follow, Cordesman warned.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indian troops arrest key leaders in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian authorities arrested two prominent separatist leaders in predawn raids Monday while thousands of troops enforced a strict curfew to quash protests in the Himalayan region that have left at least 34 people dead. The arrests came hours after paramilitary soldiers in Srinigar opened fire on a group of Muslim protesters who allegedly defied an indefinite curfew imposed in Muslim-majority areas and tried to storm into a police camp, an official said. One person was killed and another seriously injured. A weekend general strike in Srinigar was the latest in the largest wave of protests against Indian rule.

RP govt rejects Muslim rebel call for halt of assault

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government on Sunday rejected a call by Muslim guerrillas for a halt in a massive air and ground assault, and instead intensified the four-day attack, capturing a rebel training camp in a southern province, officials said. Moro Islamic Liberation Front Chairman Al Haj Murad urged the government in a rare news conference Saturday to stop the offensive, warning it could imperil a years-long peace process and escalate violence in the country's troubled south. About 6,000 troops and police commando forces, backed by artillery and bomber aircraft, have attacked guerrilla positions to capture a rebel commander who occupied and looted Christian farming communities in North Cotabato province.

Taiwan probes ex-leader's alleged money laundering

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Former Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian's son and daughter-in-law returned home Monday from the United States, insisting they are innocent of any criminal role in an alleged money laundering scandal involving their family. Chen, who left the presidency in May, admitted earlier this month that he broke the law by not fully declaring campaign donations and that his wife, Wu Shu-chen, wired $20 million abroad. The former first couple said the money was placed in the Swiss accounts of their son and daughter-in-law. Prosecutors then listed all four as suspects in their investigation into whether the transfers amount to money laundering.

World

Guatemala plane crash kills 10

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—A small plane carrying U.S. humanitarian workers crashed in a field in eastern Guatemala on Sunday, killing 10 people, including five Americans, an aviation official and a survivor said.

The Cessna Caravan crashed about 60 miles (100 kilometers) east of Guatemala City. The burned wreckage of the plane was scattered along the edge of a barren field lined with palm trees.

The pilot called in engine trouble about 45 minutes after takeoff and tried to make an emergency landing, Civil Aviation director Jose Carlos said.

Eight passengers were killed, along with the Guatemalan pilot and co-pilot, Carlos said.

He said five of the passengers killed were Americans, but the nationalities of the other three had not been determined. Four other Americans on board were injured and were being airlifted to a hospital in the capital.

Sarah Jensen, a 19-year-old who survived the crash with minor cuts and bruises, said she and her family were headed to a village in the area of El Estor to build homes for CHOICE Humanitarian, a group based in West Jordan, Utah.

Her brother and father were killed in the crash, and her mother had serious burns and contusions. The family is from Amery, Wisconsin, Jensen told The Associated Press in a brief interview at the hospital.

It was unclear if the other Americans were also with CHOICE Humanitarian. The group did not return calls Sunday afternoon.

AP

Investigators work at the scene of a plane crash in Cabanas, Guatemala, Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008.

Suicide bomber kills 25 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up Sunday in the midst of a celebration to welcome home an Iraqi detainee released from U.S. custody, killing at least 25 people, Iraqi officials said.

The U.S. military, meanwhile, announced the arrest of an al-Qaida in Iraq figure who allegedly planned the 2006 kidnapping of American journalist Jill Carroll—one of the highest-profile attacks against Westerners in Iraq.

The suicide attack occurred inside one of several tents set up outside a house in the Abu Ghraib area on Baghdad's western outskirts, according to residents and police. It was unclear if the former detainee was among the casualties.

A woman who was wounded but declined to give her name for security reasons said she was preparing food behind the tents when the blast occurred at about 9 p.m., knocking her and her three young children off their feet.

Residents and police said Ayyid Salim al-Zubaie, a local sheik in the mainly Sunni area, had invited dozens of guests to a banquet in honor of his son, who was released earlier in the day from Camp Bucca in southern Iraq.

8 feared dead after Mont Blanc avalanche

CHAMONIX, France (AP)—An avalanche swept down a major summit in the Mont Blanc range before dawn Sunday, leaving eight climbers missing and presumed dead along a trail often used to reach western Europe's highest peak.

"There's no chance of finding anyone alive," French Interior Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said while visiting the area.

The avalanche was set off at around 3 a.m. by the fall of a massive block of ice on the Mont Blanc du Tacul, one of the peaks in the Mont Blanc range, at an altitude of some 11,800 feet, the Haute-Savoie regional government office said in a statement.

Authorities deployed a vast search mission, involving four helicopters, dozens of rescue workers, doctors, Alpine guides and sniffer dogs, said the statement.

The regional government at first said 10 climbers—including five Austrians and three Swiss—were believed missing, but that figure was lowered to eight after two Italians thought to be among them had already returned to Italy.

Seven people were hospitalized—not eight as originally indicated—and of those, only three were staying overnight.

US warship carrying aid supplies reaches Georgia port

ABOARD THE U.S.S. MCFAUL (AP)—A U.S. Navy destroyer loaded with humanitarian aid reached Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi on Sunday, bringing baby food, bottled water and a message of support for an embattled ally.

Before the warship arrived, a Russian general suggested U.S. ships moving across the Black Sea would worsen tensions already driven to a post-Cold War high by a short but intense war between Russia and Georgia.

"The population of Georgia will feel more safe from today from the Russian aggression," Georgian Defense Minister David Kezerashvili told The Associated Press on the aft missile deck of the McFaul after greeting U.S. Navy officers in crisp white uniforms on shore.

"They will feel safe not because the destroyer is here but because they will feel they are not alone facing the Russian aggression," he added.

Local children offered the Americans wine and flowers.

Overdrive

2009 HYUNDAI GENESIS

Smart luxury takes on the vanguards of prestige

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

AP

The 2009 Hyundai Genesis, a "near-luxury" sedan, is an attractive piece of work that proves no one has a corner on automotive talent.

CORNWALL, N.Y.—A billboard near this Hudson Valley enclave urges people to "drive prestige." It is an unabashed pitch to egos in pursuit of sales of expensive European and Japanese automobiles—BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche and Lexus.

But it is a sign of a time past, or certainly of an era that is passing, even in this community of elegant homes and rolling lawns.

Times are tough. Prestige no longer gets an automatic nod. Prestige without value, or encumbered by suspect worth, nowadays gets the boot.

Into that environment comes Hyundai Motor America with its most expensive automobile to date, the rear-wheel-drive 2009 Hyundai Genesis sedan. It's aimed at what the car industry calls the "near-luxury segment"—that part of the market priced from about $30,000 to $50,000.

Conventional wisdom suggests that Hyundai is making a mistake. It is a Korean-owned company that made its mark in America, a poorly formed scratch that eventually became a strong product signature, selling economy automobiles and wagons. What is Hyundai doing trying to sell cars priced from $33,000 to $42,000?

The short answer is that Hyundai, like its competitors, is going for the gold. If successful, Hyundai could reshape popular notions of prestige. In the process, it could elevate the meaning of "value."

The Genesis, for example, does not have the traditional panache of rivals such as the BMW 528i, Cadillac CTS, Infiniti M35, Lexus ES 350 or GS 350, or the Mercedes-Benz E 350. But it runs and handles as well as any of those automobiles—and better than a few of them. The Genesis also offers every technical advantage provided by its rivals and serves up more standard safety features—eight air bags, electronically enabled head restraints in the front seats, and electronic stability and traction control—than those usually offered by competitors.

Its styling is attractive inside and out. And the car is loaded with amenities, including thoughtful touches such as a power rear sunshade.

What the Genesis lacks is an astronomically high price. Depending on the model chosen—the eight-cylinder Genesis 4.6 or the six-cylinder Genesis 3.8—and whether that model comes with the "premium," "premium plus," or the "technology" package, the Genesis can cost from $200 to $22,000 less than competitive European and Asian automobiles.

In that regard, the Genesis is a celebration of luxury without hyperbole, luxury with a deal, including one of the best automobile warranties in the business—five years/60,000 miles bumper-to-bumper protection and a 10-year/100,000 mile limited warranty on engine and transmission.

The pity is that early marketing chatter indicates that Hyundai executives do not understand the nature of the winner their company has produced. They are like young boys in a schoolyard bragging about who is best, who is toughest, talking about "targeting premium consumers and a broader audience to elevate the Hyundai brand."

They would be better served—and they would better serve the Genesis—to emulate the smart kid buried in a book in study hall while her classmates are in the schoolyard making noise. She might never become the most popular student. But she is likely to graduate with honors and go on to other educational and career achievements that will make a difference in the world and put money in the bank.

Put another way, instead of following traditional automobile marketing and shouting, "I'm better than you!," Hyundai executives should emphasize that the Genesis represents luxury with a difference. It wraps luxury—indisputable, meaningful luxury—with common sense.

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS

The steering in the Genesis 4.6 takes some getting used to. Initially, it feels a bit heavy and off-center, as if it wants to move slightly opposite of your intended turn. But you soon learn to let it do its thing, which turns out to be wonderfully precise. By comparison, the steering in the Genesis 3.8 is remarkably compliant to driver input from start to finish.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

Both the Genesis 4.6 and 3.8 are great road cars. Both move with agility, speed, power. My favorite is the Genesis 3.8, which feels lighter and quicker and gets 27 miles per gallon on the highway vs. 25 mpg for the Genesis 4.6.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

To all of you who asked: Yes, Hyundai designed, developed and manufactured the Genesis, which rolls out of a Hyundai assembly plant in Ulsan, Korea. It's an attractive piece of work that proves no one has a corner on automotive talent.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Genesis is a front-engine, rear-wheel-drive, full-size, entry-level luxury sedan. It is offered in two basic formats, 4.6 and 3.8, with three trim levels—"premium," "premium plus" and "technology."

ENGINES/TRANSMISSION

There is a 4.6-liter V-8 that, using premium gasoline, develops 375 horsepower at 6,500 revolutions per minute and 333 foot-pounds of torque at 3,500 rpm. The available V-6, which produces 290 horsepower at 6,200 rpm and 264 foot-pounds of torque at 4,500 rpm, runs on regular gasoline. Both engines are mated to a six-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Luggage capacity is 15.9 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 19.3 gallons and takes unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE

I averaged 16 mpg in urban traffic and 24 mpg on the highway with the V-8. In the V-6, I did two to three mpg better all around.

SAFETY

There are eight air bags, including head and side bags front and rear. Body construction is rigid. Electronic head restraints, stability and traction control are standard along with antilock brakes.

PRICE

Prices start at $33,000 for the 3.8, including a $750 shipping charge. The Genesis 3.8 can be optioned out to about $40,000. Prices for the Genesis 4.6 start at $38,000, including the $750 transportation charge. The 4.6 can be optioned out to $42,000. Prices are sourced from Hyundai.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

If marketed correctly, the Genesis is sure to change consumers' perceptions of what is and isn't prestigious. New perceptions of prestige will require a nod toward common sense.

Insurance industry: Small SUVs improve in crash tests

WASHINGTON (AP)—Four small sport utility vehicles received top scores in crash tests to be released Wednesday by the insurance industry, a sign of improvement compared with SUVs built earlier in the decade.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety gave top crash test scores in front-end, side and rear tests to the 2009 Ford Escape, 2009 Volkswagen Tiguan, 2008 Mitsubishi Outlander and the 2008 Nissan Rogue.

Adrian Lund, the Institute's president, said the Escape, Tiguan, Outlander and Rogue were all equipped with standard electronic stability control - which guards against rollovers - and side air bags.

The safety equipment helped the vehicles show improvements across the board, including in the side tests.

"This is a huge change from just five years ago when most small SUVs were rated either marginal or poor in our side test, and standard side air bags and electronic stability control were rare," Lund said.

The marks for the Escape also apply to the Mercury Mariner and Mazda Tribute, and hybrid versions of the Escape and Mariner. The vehicles share the same underpinnings.

The 2008 Jeep Wrangler, meanwhile, which was tested without optional side air bags, received the Institute's lowest score of poor in the side test. Previous versions of the two-door vehicle had received the second-lowest score of marginal in side crashes.

Lund said that during the latest test, the Wrangler's driver door opened during the crash. The opening could lead to a person being ejected from the vehicle, he said.

Chrysler LLC spokesman Max Gates said the Wrangler "meets or exceeds" all federal safety standards and "no single crash test provides a full picture of a vehicle's crashworthiness."

Tests of the 2008 Jeep Patriot showed the benefits of side air bags. A version of the Patriot equipped with an optional front torso air bag received the top score of good in the side test. A Patriot without the side air bags received the second-lowest score in a separate side test.

Both versions of the Patriot received the second-highest score of acceptable in the front-end test.

In other tests, the 2008 Suzuki Grand Vitara received the highest score in the front-end test and the second-highest mark in the side test.

The 2008 Chevrolet Equinox and Pontiac Torrent without optional side air bags received the top score in the front-end test and the second-lowest rating in the side test.

GM spokeswoman Carolyn Markey said the Equinox and Torrent will have head curtain side-impact air bags as standard equipment in the 2009 model year.

CRUISIN'

WW II sports car

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I'm trying to verify a memory from the World War II era. I remember an Italian sports car called the Cisitalia that only had a four-banger engine, but was quite fast. I have been unable to find it or any mention of it. Back then, it went to most of the auto shows in New York City when admission was free.

— Henry S.

A: Henry, your memory serves you well! In October 1944, industrialist Turinese Piero Dusio created Consorzio Industriale Sportivo Italia, or Cisitalia, as it came to be known. Prior to WWII, Dusio was one of Italy's top amateur road racers, driving Alfa Romeos, Maseratis and Fiats.

Dusio commissioned several automobiles from Europe's leading designers, finally choosing Pinin Farina and providing him with the chassis on which the Cisitalia's body was placed. The body was more or less handcrafted, with its aluminum panels shaped over wooden forms. Because of this time-consuming process, only 170 models were produced between 1947 and 1952.

When first presented to the public at the Villa d'Este Gold Cup show in Como, Italy, and at the 1947 Paris Motor Show, the Cisitalia "202" GT was a resounding success. The two-seater was an aesthetic and technical achievement that transformed postwar automobile body design.

One of Dusio's employees was Carlo Abarth, of Fiat Abarth fame, who helped a great deal in the development of the Cisitalia sports car. Thus, these three people, Dusio, Abarth and Farina, receive credit for this great car.

New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1951 honored the Pinin Farina Cisitalia design, which is no doubt where you saw it in person.

Life & Style

Will star wattage in Denver help or hurt Obama?

NEW YORK (AP)—Back in 2004, hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons was in Boston for John Kerry's coronation as the Democratic nominee, staging a big hip-hop summit to draw new voters. This year, though he's a Barack Obama supporter, he plans to sit out the Denver convention.

"I didn't really feel they needed any more celebrities," says Simmons, chairman of Rush Communications, who'd been set to speak at a yoga convention on the sidelines, but changed his plans. "They have plenty. I didn't know if it would be helpful."

It's no secret that many celebrities, especially of the Hollywood variety, support Obama enthusiastically. Hollywood has always been heavily Democratic, and Obama's youthful charisma and message of change has made passionate fans of stars like George Clooney, Ben Affleck and countless others.

But with the John McCain camp trying to paint Obama as a lightweight celebrity on the level of Paris Hilton and Britney Spears, Obama's folks might be getting a little jittery about the star power likely to converge on Denver.

Clooney, for one, won't be part of it: He's long maintained that Hollywood stars don't do the candidates any good in the heartland, and he's said to be planning instead a September fundraiser for Obama far from Denver—in Geneva, Switzerland.

But Affleck will be at the convention, and Oprah Winfrey, Obama's most influential celebrity booster, plans to be in the audience when her man accepts the nomination at Invesco Field. Others expected: Spike Lee, Charlize Theron, Josh Brolin, Annette Bening, Susan Sarandon, perhaps Leonardo DiCaprio and Gwyneth Paltrow.

AP

In this July 29, 2004 file photo is shown actors Leonardo DiCaprio, top left, and Ben Affleck, top right, during the Democratic National Convention in Boston.

Want even more Oscar-caliber acting power? Sean Penn will be around, at a rally organized by Ralph Nader.

Kanye West is just one of the entertainers performing at various sideline events, as are the Black Eyed Peas, whose frontman, will.i.am, has released not one but two star-studded music videos in tribute to Obama. Sheryl Crow, Melissa Etheridge, Cyndi Lauper and Stevie Wonder are expected. Rock the Vote, a nonpartisan group, plans to feature Jakob Dylan, Fall Out Boy and NERD at one party, singer Ashanti and actress Idina Menzel at another.

Of course, the 2004 Democratic convention in Boston was chock full of celebrities of all stripes, too. The difference now is that the Republicans are specifically trying to hurt Obama by focusing on his celebrity appeal.

So what's a campaign to do?

"If I were in the Obama camp, I would lock Ben Affleck and Barbra Streisand away in a closet for the rest of the year," says Todd Harris, a Republican strategist and former aide to candidate Fred Thompson. "To the degree that all of this celebrity glitz and glamour reinforces an emerging negative view of Obama, which is that he is all glitz and no experience, it could be very detrimental."

Democratic consultant Chris Lehane takes a more measured view. The Obama campaign, he says, is facing "the age-old conundrum for Democrats who every presidential cycle in recent memory have had the support of what I call the sparklies—only to want to downplay them once they get to the fall," because it might fuel stereotypes of Democrats as out of touch.

On one hand, says Lehane, who once worked for Al Gore, the celebrity factor can be a huge asset, especially with young voters, as it was for Bill Clinton. On the other hand it can backfire—Kerry hardly benefited when, at a pre-convention fundraiser, Whoopi Goldberg used sexually explicit references to refer to President Bush.

So are Obama's folks jittery? "I think that Team Obama is a confident bunch and the jitteriness—to the extent it exists—comes from others in the party primarily out of a concern of how tight the race is," he says. "The Obama high command is a smart lot. My guess is that they will use the convention to lay out the vision they need to seal the deal."

Among celebrities, it's not just Clooney who seems sensitive to the potential problems. Actor-director Affleck, who was ubiquitous at the 2004 convention, will be in Denver too, but isn't interested in talking about it beforehand, his publicists say.

Ken Sunshine, whose public relations firm represents Affleck along with a long roster of both celebrities and politicians, thinks the whole celebrity issue is overblown.

"This phenomenon is so overanalyzed, you'd think there were no other issues in the campaign this year," he said. "I don't think it's fair to lump all celebrities together," Sunshine adds. "Most serious celebrities don't pretend to be anything more than activists and good citizens. Why should Ben Affleck be penalized just because he's an actor and a director? He's smarter, more articulate, better read on foreign policy that 98 percent of us."

And Clooney, whose commitment to political causes is well known, shouldn't be staying home, in Sunshine's view. "Why shouldn't he be in Denver? He has nothing to be ashamed of."

As for Winfrey, the one star who's perhaps in a category of her own in terms of clout and power, she'll be in Denver but only as an audience member on the big night, according to her company, Harpo Productions. She has no plans to speak publicly.

But if she did, it would probably do some good, says Simmons, the hip-hop mogul. "It depends on the celebrity whether it hurts or helps," he says. "I don't think Oprah hurts! I think she helps a lot."

Simmons himself, who did some campaigning for Obama during the primaries, is ready to be of service.

"I'm looking for guidance from the campaign," he says. "They haven't called. But if they need me, I'm on a plane. Whatever they want."

West, Lopez, Daughtry among stars in Denver

DENVER (AP)—Never mind those stinging "celebrity" ads, or the rebuttal by Paris Hilton. Musicians, artists and Hollywood types are descending on Denver—and so what if Barack Obama doesn't need their star power?

He'll get it anyway.

Of course, many of the most high-profile parties and concerts planned for the four-day Democratic Convention are ostensibly set apart from Team Obama.

Even fellow Chicagoan Kanye West's performance Wednesday is for Bono's nonpartisan ONE Campaign, which plans another concert—though with Chris Daughtry instead of West—on the sidelines of the Republican gathering in St. Paul, Minn.

The key Democrat-sponsored concert was a welcoming event Sunday night at Denver's Red Rocks Amphitheatre, featuring Dave Matthews Band, Sugarland and Sheryl Crow.

On Saturday night, the Rock The Bells Tour brought hip-hop acts to Fiddler's Green south of town. In the lineup was Murs, who says in a song that he's "hoping that the world fall in love with Obama," and veteran rapper Nas, who in a new song with Young Jeezy lectures the Illinois senator.

"When thousands of peoples is riled up to see you, that could arouse your ego," Nas raps on "My President." "We got mouths to feed, though. Gotta stay true to who you are and where you came from. 'Cause at the top will be the same place you hang from."

The New York rapper closes his verse, though, with praise: "They gotta put your face on a $5,000 bill."

Here's the rundown of concerts and parties for the rest of the Denver convention.

MONDAY

At the city's opera house, Rock The Vote hosts "Ballot Bash," the big party of the convention's first night. Performances were expected from Fall Out Boy, Jakob Dylan and Pharrell Williams and Chad Hugo's rap-rock band NERD. Mr. Mariah Carey, Nick Cannon, will be DJing at the afterparty.

TUESDAY

Grammy organizers set up a concert with rockers Everclear, Daughtry and the Denver band Flobots, who also performed at a Saturday night DNC party at the Elitch Gardens amusement park.

■ Also downtown, the nonprofit Do Something hosts a party at a hotel-lounge with a set by Moby. Among planned attendees: Arianna Huffington, John Kerry and (random star alert!) Chevy Chase.

■ "Etown," a long-running Boulder, Colo.-based radio variety show, will host performances from James Taylor, Ani DiFranco and David Crosby and Graham Nash.

■ Singer Idina Menzel, best known as Elphaba from "Wicked," performs at another Rock The Vote party in Denver's LoDo district, with Ashanti in attendance.

WEDNESDAY

By far the busiest day for performances and celebrities features Jennifer Lopez stopping by the Denver Art Museum to honor Marian Wright Edelman, Ben Affleck promoting "America's Second Harvest" at the Food Bank of the Rockies, and Rage Against the Machine raging against the machine at the Denver Coliseum.

■ The Creative Coalition, a nonprofit group meant that engages the artist community in issues, sponsors a Black Eyed Peas concert at the Fillmore Auditorium, one of three performances Peas' frontman will.i.am will be doing in Denver.

■ West's concert—sponsored by ONE and the Recording Industry Association of America—is at around the same time, and will attract at least as much attention, if only for the hip-hop star's unpredictability when it comes to politics.

■ Also on tap: A Ralph Nader rally with Sean Penn and Val Kilmer set to speak. A separate indie rock lineup in support of Obama features the Silversun Pickups, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, Nada Surf and the Cold War Kids.

THURSDAY

The most prominent Obama celebrity backers—from Oprah to Kerry Washington—will be at Invesco Field for the candidate's big speech. Sideline events are minimal, though there's an afterparty sponsored by Google and Vanity Fair.

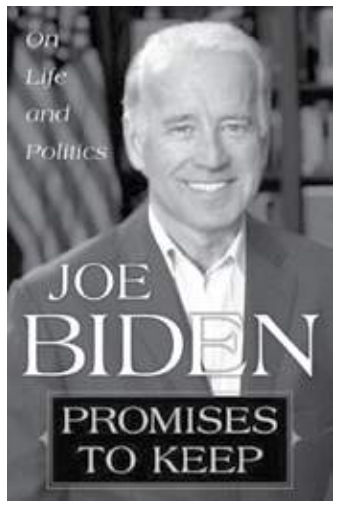
Comeback Kid: Biden's memoir now a best-seller

NEW YORK (AP)—A memoir by Sen. Joe Biden, once as forgotten as his presidential run, is now a best seller.

A day after Sen. Barack Obama chose Biden as his running mate for the Democratic ticket, Biden's "Promises to Keep: On Life and Politics" was in the top 10 on Barnes & Noble.com and in the top 40 on Amazon.com.

It was so in demand that on Sunday it was listed as out of stock by both booksellers.

"We'll be reprinting," said Tom Perry, deputy publisher of the Random House Publishing Group, which released the memoir in the summer of 2007, several months after Biden announced his candidacy for president.



Like so many works that come out during the campaign, "Promises to Keep" was no more successful than its author, who dropped out of the race in January 2008. Perry said that a paperback, originally scheduled to come out after the election, will be released within a "week or so."

"Bringing out the hardcover last year during the hectic lead-in to the primaries didn't help the book because it was perceived by some to be a campaign tool. It's actually a fine and moving memoir," Perry said.

"We'd been holding off releasing the paperback until the election season was over, when we felt people would be able to focus on the human story he is telling. But clearly this is a new opportunity for the book and it's a great way to get to know who this man is and what he stands for."

Research aims to put human tongues in control of devices

ATLANTA (AP)—The tireless tongue already controls taste and speech, helps kiss and swallow and fights germs. Now scientists hope to add one more ability to the mouthy muscle, and turn it into a computer control pad.

Georgia Tech researchers believe a magnetic, tongue-powered system could transform a disabled person's mouth into a virtual computer, teeth into a keyboard—and tongue into the key that manipulates it all.

"You could have full control over your environment by just being able to move your tongue," said Maysam Ghovanloo, a Georgia Tech assistant professor who leads the team's research.

The group's Tongue Drive System turns the tongue into a joystick of sorts, allowing the disabled to manipulate wheelchairs, manage home appliances and control computers. The work still has a ways to go—one potential user called the design "grotesque"—but early tests are encouraging.

The system is far from the first that seeks a new way to control electronics through facial movements. But disabled advocates have particularly high hopes that the tongue could prove the most effective.

"This could give you an almost infinite number of switches and options for communication," said Mike Jones, a vice president of research and technology at the Shepherd Center, an Atlanta rehabilitation hospital. "It's easy, and somebody could learn an entirely different language."

That's quite a contrast to the handful of methods already available to the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are disabled from the neck down.

The "sip and puff" technique, which lets people issue commands by inhaling and exhaling into a tube, is among the most popular. But it offers users only four different commands, limiting their options.

Control systems that use sophisticated pads to measure neck and head movements are also widespread, but using the hardware can be tiring, and frustrating on smaller electronics like computers.

And while newer innovations that track eye movement are promising, they can be costly, slow and susceptible to mixed signals.

The tongue, though, is a more flexible, sensitive and tireless option. And like other facial muscles, its functions tend to be spared in accidents that can paralyze most of the rest of the body, because the tongue is attached to the brain, not the spinal cord.

The tongue's promise has long enticed scientists. In the 1960s, research work focused on turning the tongue into a primitive lens by attaching electrodes to the tissue. More recent studies have connected a camera that activates tongue electrodes in the shape of an object, helping blind people sense images.

A Palo Alto, Calif.-based company, newAbilities Systems Inc., has already designed a nine-button keypad placed on the roof of the mouth to control electronics.

Ghovanloo's work, however, centers on creating a virtual keyboard instead of a physical one. He does that through a magnet about 3 millimeters wide that's placed under the tip of the tongue.

The magnet's movement is tracked by sensors on the side of each cheek, which sends data to a receiver atop a rather bulky set of headgear. It is then processed by software that converts the movement into commands for a wheelchair or other electronics.

After turning the system on, users are asked to establish six commands: Left, right, forward, backward, single-click and double-click. A graduate student who tested the technology was cruising the lab at will in a wheelchair, tongue firmly in cheek.

It's an impressive display, and Ghovanloo said he hopes he could one day add dozens more commands that turn teeth into keyboards and cheeks into computer consoles. For example, "Left-up could be turning lights on, right-down could be turning off the TV," Ghovanloo said.

Early tests involving Georgia Tech students are encouraging, and the team's work has already attracted a $120,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and $150,000 from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.

But plenty of challenges await. Researchers must pare down the bulky headgear, which looks like a prop from a 1980s movie, into a dental retainer. The team also must improve the software, tinker with the size of the magnet and boost the wireless battery's charge.

Above all, they must find a way to keep costs in between the "sip and puff" systems, which can cost hundreds of dollars, to more sophisticated eye-tracking systems, which cost thousands.

Still, the research encourages Justin Cochran, a 26-year-old college student who watched a recent test.

The design certainly needs improvements. "It's in its infancy and quite grotesque," he said. But Cochran said its potential for almost limitless control options makes him want to shelve his "sip and puff" wheelchair.

"You could control not just your chair, your TV, your computer, but your entire life," he said. "And it's all one system."

AP

In this photo released by Georgia Tech Maysam Ghovanloo, a Georgia Tech assistant professor, points to a tiny magnet on graduate student Xueliang Huo's tongue Tuesday, June 9, 2008 in Atlanta. The device will turn Huo's tongue into a joystick that controls a wheelchair and the team hopes it could help the disabled gain more mobility.

In Loving Memory

Maria (Terang) Terlaje Santos Muna

Also known as "Marian Estevan"
April 13, 1937 - August 20, 2008

In her new life Maria (Terang) now joins her:
Husband : Estevan Tudela Muna
Son : Francisco (Dadol) Santos Muna
Mother : Teresa Aquiningoc Terlaje Santos
Father : Jose Ada Santos
Parents-in-law : Sebastian Palacios Muna & Rosa Sablan Tudela

Her memories will live in the hearts of her children:
Carmen (Mae) S. Muna (Jacob, Cleavon/Majumy, Kyle)
Victor (To') S./Nid Muna (Allan)
Vicenta (Lily) M./Jose (Pepe') P. Sablan (Nanette/Joseph Palacios - Darwin, Nathan, Katelyn), Jovinette Emily, Leannette Therese)
† Francisco S./Irene B. Muna (Roseann, Valerie, Karen, Steven)
Gilbert (Gil) S. Muna
Gerard Dominic/Melinda I. Muna (Joshua Joel, Stevielyn, Germel, Jennica Jazell)

Reared Children:
† Margaret (Adick) B./ † Gene B. Groover (Glen, Gabriel, Eugene, George)
Emmanuel (Chubby) S./Langlang Borja (Terrian)

Brothers, Sisters, Spouses and In-laws:
† Rosa S./ † Ramon M. Aguon
† Servino T./ † Carmen (Kino) F. Santos (Children)
† Jose (Lulu) T./Maria Lisa B. Santos (Children)
Teresita S./Eugene T. Borja (Children)

Alfonso Lorenso D./Isabel C. DL Guerrero (Children)
Juana M./ † Jose A. Camacho (Children)
Catalina M./ † Gregorio F. Borja - Texas (Children)
Ana M./Peter Taitano - Guam (Child)
† Daniel T./Juana S. Muna (Children)
† Miguel T./Milagro L. Muna (Children)

She will be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and godchildren.

Daily masses are being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. (except on Sunday, August 24th at 9:00 a.m.) and St. Jude Church at 6:00 p.m. Last respects for Maria (Terang) will be held on Thursday, August 28, 2008 leaving Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel (Cabrera Center) at 7-30 a.m. for final viewing from 8-00 - 9:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian burial will be held at 10,00 a.m. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yuus Maase, Thank You, Gillisow, Mesulang, Maraming Salamat Po!
From the Children, Grandchildren, & Great Grandchildren

'Thunder' reigns again with $16.1 million weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The action comedy "Tropic Thunder" weathered a rush of new movies to remain No. 1 for a second-straight weekend with $16.1 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Paramount-DreamWorks release—starring Ben Stiller, Robert Downey Jr. and Jack Black as actors caught up in real battle while shooting a war movie—raised its 12-day total to $65.7 million.

"Tropic Thunder" came in just ahead of Sony's campus comedy "The House Bunny," which debuted in second place with $15.1 million. "The House Bunny" stars Anna Faris as an ostracized Playboy bunny who becomes den mother to a sorority of campus misfits.

Universal's "Death Race"—an update of 1975's "Death Race 2000," with Jason Statham starring as a driver in a kill-or-be-killed auto race of the future—opened at No. 3 with $12.3 million.

AP

Jerry Stiller, left, and his son Ben Stiller pose for a picture during a Major League Baseball game between the New York Yankees and the Kansas City Royals Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

The weekend's other new wide releases, Ice Cube's sports drama "The Longshots" and Rainn Wilson's music comedy "The Rocker," opened weakly.

"The Longshots"—an MGM-Weinstein Co. release starring Ice Cube as a former high school star coaching his niece, the first girl to play Pop Warner football—came in at No. 8 with $4.3 million.

20th Century Fox's "The Rocker," starring Wilson as an over-the-hill heavy-metal drummer who gets a chance at stardom with a high school band, took in $2.8 million to finish at No. 12.

After a run of blockbuster weekends, late summer was proving the usual dumping ground for modest movies as business slowed and audiences eased into back-to-school mode.

That opened the door for "Tropic Thunder" to repeat as the weekend's box-office leader.

1. **"Tropic Thunder,"** $16.1 million.
2. **"The House Bunny,"** $15.1 million.
3. **"Death Race,"** $12.3 million.
4. **"The Dark Knight,"** $10.3 million.
5. **"Star Wars: The Clone Wars,"** $5.7 million.
6. **"Pineapple Express,"** $5.6 million.
7. **"Mirrors,"** $4.9 million.
8. **"The Longshots,"** $4.304 million.
9. **"Mamma Mia!"**, $4.303 million.
10. **"The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor,"** $4.1 million.

"There isn't that divide where there's a couple of huge movies coming every week," said DreamWorks spokesman Chip Sullivan.

Summer's biggest hit, "The Dark Knight," continued its climb up the box-office charts, placing fourth with $10.3 million. The Warner Bros. Batman sequel has taken in $489.2 million on its way to becoming the second film ever to top $500 million, after "Titanic" ($600.8 million).

Overall movie revenues of $3.9 billion are slightly ahead of last summer's record pace. But higher admission prices mean the actual number of tickets sold is down about 3 percent compared to summer 2007, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

Still, Hollywood should finish with a box-office record and a second-straight summer topping the $4 billion mark.

"Thank you, `Dark Knight.' That's added close to half a billion dollars," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. "One film like `The Dark Knight' can make a huge difference

In limited release, Focus Features' comedy "Hamlet 2" pulled in $435,000. Starring Steve Coogan as a high school drama teacher staging a campy, irreverent musical sequel to Shakespeare's play, "Hamlet 2" expands into nationwide release Wednesday.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

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Death Race

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

Terminal Island, New York: 2020. Overcrowding in the U.S. penal system has reached a breaking point. Prisons have been turned over to a monolithic Weyland Corporation, which sees jails full of thugs as an opportunity for televised sport. Adrenalized inmates, a global audience hungry for violence and a spectacular, enclosed arena come together to form the 'Death Race', the world's biggest, most brutal sporting event. Five-time NASCAR champion Jensen Ames is a man who has become an expert at survival.

★ ★ ★

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:15	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Christopher Lee, Anthony Daniels
Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

As the Clone Wars sweep through the galaxy, the heroic Jedi Knights struggle to maintain order and restore peace. More and more systems are falling prey to the forces of the dark side as the Galactic Republic slips further and further under the sway of the Separatists and their never-ending droid army. Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan learner Ahsoka Tano find themselves on a mission with far-reaching consequences, one that brings them face-to-face with crime lord Jabba the Hutt.

Tropic Thunder

Friday		4:20	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:20	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:20	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

Mirrors

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Friday		4:15	7:05	9:30
Saturday	1:05	4:15	7:05	9:30
Sunday	1:05	4:15	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:05	

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Pineapple Express

Friday		@	7:25	9:40
Saturday	@	@	7:25	9:40
Sunday	@	@	7:25	9:40
Mon thru Thurs		@	7:25	

James Franco, Seth Rogen
Action, Comedy, Thriller • Rated R

Dark Knight

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mamma Mia

Friday		4:10	@	@
Saturday	1:20	4:10	@	@
Sunday	1:20	4:10	@	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	@	

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated PG 13

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Davis, Wolfson attending convention for Fox

NEW YORK (AP)—Longtime Clinton confidant Lanny Davis and Howard Wolfson, Hillary Clinton's former communications director, once anticipated being very busy at this week's Democratic National Convention.

They never envisioned going to Denver as employees of Fox News Channel.

Davis and Wolfson will be on television commenting on the convention Monday instead of working behind the scenes to shape it. They have also put themselves into the middle of a simmering civil war among Democrats over how to deal with a network many see as hostile to their cause.

Both see their punditry positions as something like missionary work, and argue that it makes little sense for Democrats not to engage with Fox News Channel viewers, even those they know oppose them.

For Fox, having them in the fold helps blunt the impact of a campaign that built momentum when Democrats wouldn't agree to participate in debates on Fox during the nomination campaign.

Davis and Wolfson came to Fox this summer following bad experiences with rival networks, although they both declined to discuss them. Wolfson and Clinton's inner circle resented MSNBC, believing the network's top talkers favored Barack Obama's candidacy. Davis, a former special counsel to President Clinton, looked like he swallowed a lemon during his last primary-night guest appearance on CNN.

Wolfson said Fox's Democratic primary coverage was fair, "and I appreciated that." With the exception of one contentious appearance on "Fox & Friends" that he smoothed over offstage, Davis said he had always been treated fairly and with respect on Fox.

They've each appeared about two dozen times on various Fox News programs since joining as contributors.

Another thing they shared: grief from fellow Democrats when they signed with Fox.

AP

In this Aug. 6, 2006 file photo originally provided by NBC News, Lanny Davis, is shown during a taping of "Meet the Press" at the NBC studios in Washington.

"Less than I expected, but still some," Davis said. "The some were from the places that have a stereotype about Fox, but when I asked them if they ever actually watched Fox, the answer is almost never."

Wolfson said he also got encouragement from Democrats who see the value in having a strong progressive voice on the network.

"My sense is that there is a recognition that we can't ignore or give the back of our hand to the largest audience in cable television (news)," he said.

At writing camp, schlepping goes with scholarship

RIPTON, Vt. (AP)—It's billed as the oldest writers' conference in the nation, a gathering at a picturesque mountaintop retreat where literary giants, book editors and up-and-coming novelists have been coming together once a year since the 1920s.

But somebody's gotta schlep the meals: At the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the job falls to two dozen young writers who serve as waiters for the two-week summer summit, donning aprons and name tags to serve breakfast, lunch and dinner to the 225 participants.

Bread Loaf crumbs, they're not. Most are professors, graduate students in the fine arts or prize-winning writers, chosen from 600 applicants for work-study scholarships that cover the $2,300 tuition.

When they're not taking in poetry readings, learning about character development or getting other pointers from Pulitzer Prize winners, they can be found in the dining hall of the Victorian-era Bread Loaf Inn, taking orders or racing in and out of the kitchen.

"We're wearing aprons, but everybody who's here—the agents, the editors, the faculty, the fellows, the other contributors—knows that this person who's waiting on you is going to be a very important writer in four or five years," said Tiphanie Yanique, 29, a poet and fiction writer from New York who's the head waiter in this year's group. "So for us, it's kind of amazing. And I think for everybody, it's kind of amazing."

Founded in 1926 and named for a nearby mountain, the August Bread Loaf takes place at an idyllic campus about 10 miles east of Middlebury College, up a winding mountain road in a land that cell phones forgot. Its yellow-and-green wraparound porches, Adirondack lawn chairs and slamming screen doors.

AP

Students Gerald Maa, 27, center, of Washington, D.C., and Christian Anton Gerard, 26, right, of Norfolk, Va., refill food trays in the buffet line as lunch is served during the Breadloaf Writers Conference in Ripton, Vt., Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008, where a small crew of students fulfills their part of a work study scholarship to attend the Middlebury College writing program by waiting tables.

Robert Frost, Theodore Roethke, William Carlos Williams, Truman Capote, Isaac Asimov and Toni Morrison have taught or lectured here. Past waiters include novelist Julia Alvarez, National Public Radio's "voice of books" Alan Cheuse and short story writer Amy Hempel.

The practice of making less established writers and poets work for their bread began in the 1950s, when Bread Loaf organizers at Middlebury College began steering students to the waitstaff jobs. Soon, that became competitive, drawing applicants from all over.

The waiters serve dinner every night, and work breakfast and lunch as their schedule of lectures and writing workshops allows.

"It gets pretty dirty," said Yanique. "It's humbling. We handle compost. Things spill. There's a lot of running."

It also can be intimidating.

"These are people I would never, ever, ever talk to, even in a social situation," said Nina McConigley, 32, an aspiring novelist from Casper, Wyo., who worked as a waitress and is now on the conference staff. "But you have to go up to them and ask `Do you want chicken, or the vegetarian option?' And when you start talking to them that way—when you're getting them their coffee and their dessert—a natural sort of conversation starts happening."

Indeed, current and former waiters say the dining hall conversations have helped them. If Bread Loaf lore is to be believed, one or two opportunists have gotten published by slipping copies of poems or manuscripts to visiting editors while serving them.

Last week, two hours after author Edward P. Jones gave an afternoon reading, he was welcomed to the long rectangular dining hall by 25-year-old poet Lillian Bertram, a master of fine arts student at the University of Illinois.

Bertram took Jones' order, walked briskly across the hardwood floor to the kitchen, and returned minutes later, plate in hand.

"Famous or not, writers are people, too," Bertram said between trips to the kitchen.

Eating nearby, Dr. Paul Austin, 53, served as a waiter two years ago and is back as a participant this year. He said his first time at Bread Loaf was grueling ("I took a lot of naps, and a lot of Advil") but included personal tutoring from author Ted Conover that helped him organize the material for his book about life as an emergency room doctor. Next month, Austin will publish "Something for the Pain."

"It's like having Tiger Woods help you with your putting," he said.

Doherty, Garth party with cast at '90210' premiere

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)—Shannen Doherty, Jennie Garth and the cast of the CW's "90210" toasted the teen drama's return to television Saturday night at a lavish invitation-only beachside premiere party.

The sandy soiree was held inside tents on the Malibu shore—about 20 miles away from the Beverly Hills zip code made famous by the original series, which ran on Fox from 1990 to 2000.

Original series stars Doherty and Garth, who will reprise their roles as Brenda Walsh and Kelly Taylor in the new show, arrived separately.

Doherty

Joe E. Tata, who will return as Peach Pit cafe owner Nat, also attended. All three posed for photos with partygoers.

However, it was the new cast members who seemed to be having the most fun. Tristan Wilds, who stars as recent Beverly Hills transplant Dixon Wilson, and Dustin Milligan, who plays popular jock Ethan Ward, chatted at the party's meat carving station. Lori Loughlin, who portrays Wilson's mother Debbie, and Jessica Walter, who plays Debbie's mother Tabitha, mingled at the noddle bar.

The premiere episode was not screened during the fete. In an unusual move, CW recently announced pre-broadcast copies of the series would not be distributed to TV reviewers and reporters.

The CW said the lack of preview footage represents a "strategic marketing decision" by it and studio partner CBS Paramount Network Television. The new "90210" is slated to premiere Sept 2.

Reports: McCartney to perform in Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM (AP)—Sir Paul McCartney is set to perform in Israel, 40 years after his legendary band, the Beatles, were banned from playing in the Holy Land.

Israeli media were abuzz with excitement on Sunday with news of McCartney's visit. The rock star was scheduled to play earlier in the year, but the show was canceled. Israeli media reported McCartney would perform in Tel Aviv on September 25.

Tel Aviv city officials could not be reached to confirm the report. McCartney's publicist, Stuart Bell said, "Nothing's been confirmed."

The Beatles were set to tour the Jewish state in 1965, but they were refused entry permits over concerns the group's lyrics could corrupt Israeli youth.

Silence during pledge is not a sign of disrespect

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Would you please tell your readers that not reciting or participating in the Pledge of Allegiance does NOT mean that someone is a "bad American"?

For religious reasons, I cannot say the Pledge. I sit quietly while it's recited, but unfortunately, others can't keep quiet about my silence. They make a scene and begin interrogating me—especially at sporting events. Others have better manners, but still insist that I stand in "respect"—but standing IS participating.

Abby, I have been punched, kicked, cursed at and spat upon, often in front of my children. People scream about their war records or their soldier relatives. Well, I have kin "over there," too. Please do not assume that non-participants are bad people. They might even be Canadian!

SILENT SUPPORTER, BENSON, N.C.

DEAR SILENT SUPPORTER: Thank you for a letter that may educate those who do not understand that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance does not automatically make them more patriotic—or better Americans—than those who do not. Physically or verbally attacking someone because the person doesn't conform is not a sign of patriotism. It's a symptom of intolerance, and should get the guilty parties tossed out of the events.

For anyone who may not already know, Quakers do not take oaths—even in courts of law—nor do they salute religious symbols. The person remaining silent (and seated) when the Pledge is recited could also be a member of a religion outside the Judeo-Christian matrix, or even a member of a certain sect of Buddhism.

Dear Abby advice for the day: When in doubt, keep your mouth shut.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am in desperate need of your wisdom. Recently I went out of my way to help my sister get a very good job. She's always down on her luck and seems to get laid off for no good reason.

Well, now that she's working with me, it's crystal clear why she can't keep a job more than a few months. She's in her late 20s, but acts like she's still in high school. Each morning she describes every intimate detail of her adventures from the night before. She calls in sick frequently, then goes on and on about her health conditions, most of which are so far-fetched they are impossible to believe.

I have tried to speak casually with her about saving her stories for break time, but she doesn't "get it." Now there are rumors that she will be fired soon. Because we don't work in the same area of the office, I figured I was OK, but today I overheard coworkers discussing what a mess she was. How do I protect what is left of my credibility and fix this nightmare?

HUMILIATED IN OREGON

DEAR HUMILIATED: Your sister appears to be not only immature, but also suffers from an exaggerated need to be the center of attention. Her work ethic could also use some retooling.

While she may be an embarrassment to you, she is not a reflection on you or your career. When she's gone—and if the rumors you're hearing are accurate, you should start the countdown now—speak privately to your bosses and apologize for any inconvenience your sister has caused them. That's all you owe them.

If your sister should ask, and only if, then tell her why she was let go. But casually hinting around won't change her, and she may have to learn these lessons the hard way.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

EXTRA PANTS...
THREE SHIRTS, TWO SWEATERS, TWO SWEATSHIRTS...
ANOTHER PAIR OF PANTS...
STILL TRYING TO LEARN TO RIDE THAT BICYCLE, EH?
I DON'T NEED ANY COMMENTS FROM YOU.
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU SHOULD EAT A LITTLE LESS AT EACH MEAL
I COULD DO THAT, I SUPPOSE
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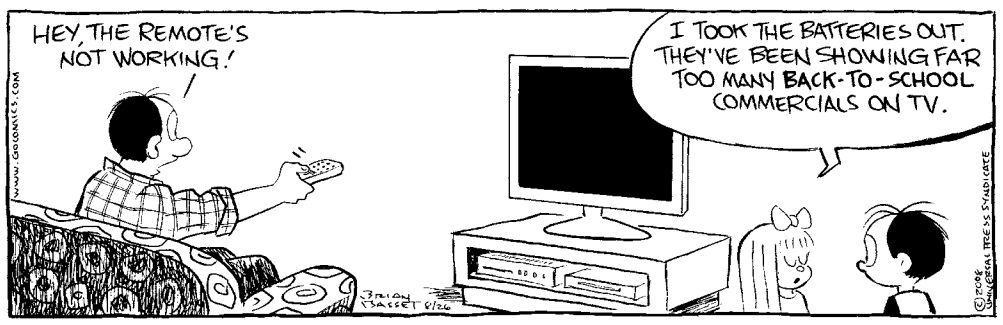
By Bryan Basset


HEY, THE REMOTE'S NOT WORKING!
I TOOK THE BATTERIES OUT. THEY'VE BEEN SHOWING FAR TOO MANY BACK-TO-SCHOOL COMMERCIALS ON TV.
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Hi. I need to pick up a prescription. Name's Camino.
I have two Caminos here. Are you the one with the toe fungus or the sore throat?
Um... Ha ha... Sore throat.
Here y'go.
Hi. I need to pick up some throat medicine for Camino.
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate 2008

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Actor Pitt
5 Canto preceder
8 One of the gang
12 Mark replacement
13 Earlier than
14 River of England
15 Jacob's brother
16 Bounces a basketball
18 Wilma's daughter
20 Flooded
21 Depressed
22 Raw rock
23 Doctrine
26 Fishermen's hopes
30 Expert
31 Wire measure
32 High mountain
33 Talks turkey?
36 Gauche
38 Tier
39 WWE surface
40 Texas A&M athlete
43 Lawrence Welk trademark
47 Nitpicks
49 Count counterpart
50 Cease to exist, old-style
51 Hearty tree
52 Old portico
53 Quite some time
54 Get nosy
55 Criterion

DOWN
1 Gridlock sound
2 Stratagem
3 Speedy steed
4 Lookalike
5 Moisten in the morn
6 Messes up
7 Mainlander's memento
8 Spider's creation
9 Luau dance
10 Works with
11 Netting
17 Zinger
19 Parcel of land
22 Lubricate
23 Playground pastime
24 Green, in a sense
25 Pen point
26 Serbian city
27 Fond du —, Wisc.
28 Wapiti
29 James Bond, e.g.
31 Kitten's call
34 Under the-table payments
35 Leopold's partner
36 Bill
37 Optimally
39 Having a persistent odor
40 Blue hue
41 — -ho (zealous)
42 Taunt
43 Tolerate
44 Tardy
45 Cupid's alias
46 Venetian blind part
48 Prune

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	A	C	H	■	S	A	D	■	H	O	B	O
P	L	O	Y	■	O	D	E	■	O	P	A	L
I	O	N	S	■	C	O	M	P	O	U	N	D
C	E	N	S	O	R	■	O	O	D	L	E	S
■	■	■	O	P	A	H	■	D	O	E	■	■
C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	■	O	N	C	E
A	B	E	■	S	I	R	E	S	■	C	O	W
D	I	S	C	■	C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E
■	■	■	D	A	T	■	D	I	R	E	■	■
S	C	A	R	A	B	■	N	Y	M	P	H	S
C	O	M	P	I	L	E	D	■	O	L	I	O
A	L	E	E	■	A	V	E	■	N	O	V	A
M	A	S	T	■	H	E	R	■	S	T	E	P

Yesterday's answer 8-26

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30			■	■	31			■	■	32		
33			34	35			■	36	37			
■	■	■	38			■	39			■	■	■
40	41	42			■	43				44	45	46
47					48			■	49			
50				■	51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Macaulay Culkin, 28; Christopher Burke, 43; Branford Marsalis, 48; Geraldine Ferraro, 73

Happy Birthday: Take a compassionate, sincere approach when dealing with others. Don't let a change of plans stop you from finishing what you start. Change may not be easy to adjust to but, once you do, you will realize how necessary it was. Expanding your family or gathering new friends will enrich your life. Your numbers are 6, 10, 24, 29, 33, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Situations will escalate out of control if you let yourself get bullied into an argument or you start something you can't finish. Keep busy with professional business and do not let any personal matter stand in the way of your progress. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't lose sight of your goals. So much can be achieved if you buckle down and do your thing. Your charm will be pronounced by your ability to see the big picture and adapt to make it work. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Listen and take in all the information you can. If you speak up or pretend to know more than you do, you will not maintain your status quo. A change in one of your relationships or with a partner may be a surprise. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): An opportunity to make a move professionally or personally is in the stars. Your love life is peaking and, as long as you don't get angry, jealous or too clingy, everything will turn out as planned. Changes to your residence will please the ones you love. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): If you talk about helping someone or an organization, you better follow through. Your reputation is at stake. A twist in a settlement you've been trying to resolve will give you something to think about. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't get all worked up over nothing. Step back and you will clearly see that you are in the right and you don't have to defend yourself. Someone will come to your rescue if you need help. However, don't overspend. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): There is no telling what might happen if you don't stay calm and do your best to deal with whatever emotional trauma is unfolding. Someone you know will overreact or take something out on you. Quietly take control. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take advantage of any opportunity to discuss a project you are working on. It's word of mouth that will help you move to the next level. Someone you meet along the way will have a greater interest in you. Don't be shy. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Someone may try to trick you out of something. Keep your money in your pocket and only pay for your fair share. An older, more experienced individual will create uncertainty. Question anything you don't understand. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take a direct approach. Fast, productive maneuvers will get you what you want and when. This is a great time to begin renovations, buy or sell property or make future plans with your partner of choice. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Socialize but don't make promises you won't be able to keep. This is not the day to let money slip through your fingers. A partnership will develop through a function or fundraising event you attend. Your services or talent will be all that's required of you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Love is on the rise. Getting together with someone socially will help you form a closer relationship. Unexpected results will come from working in partnership with someone you look up to. You can expand your skills, knowledge or services. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a humanitarian and are quick to resolve any issues that arise. You are a go-to person with answers and solutions.

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9			6		5		
		2	3					4
3		1				9	2	
			7		3		9	
1								7
	5		1		4			
	4	7				8		9
6					1	3		
		3		4			7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	4	8	3	5	6	9	7
7	6	3	4	2	9	5	8	1
9	5	8	7	6	1	4	2	3
1	3	7	6	4	2	8	5	9
5	8	6	1	9	3	7	4	2
4	9	2	5	7	8	3	1	6
6	2	5	3	1	4	9	7	8
3	4	9	2	8	7	1	6	5
8	7	1	9	5	6	2	3	4

Difficulty Level ★ 8/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE FROMMER'S GUIDES — Solution: 11 letters

D	E	T	S	U	R	T	H	G	I	S	E	T	A	R
S	S	W	A	L	K	S	S	T	C	A	F	R	D	A
E	U	H	N	E	W	S	A	V	E	F	I	A	V	S
C	I	T	O	E	S	E	M	A	N	E	L	V	I	K
N	T	R	I	P	S	A	Ⓢ	Ⓔ	Ⓛ	Ⓛ	T	E	C	O
E	E	V	S	T	P	A	B	T	R	T	H	L	E	O
I	E	R	U	S	L	I	E	E	T	E	G	D	U	B
R	E	C	O	M	M	E	N	D	A	T	I	O	N	S
E	X	A	M	S	Y	O	S	G	I	C	N	A	K	E
P	P	R	A	D	W	E	N	T	C	R	H	T	I	R
X	E	R	F	N	C	U	L	E	N	S	E	E	D	U
E	R	Y	E	A	I	L	O	I	Y	E	K	C	S	T
N	T	D	L	L	S	A	T	O	W	N	V	R	T	C
S	A	P	S	C	O	V	E	R	A	G	E	E	A	I
E	N	I	L	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	L	B	U	P

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Yesterday's Answer: Speech

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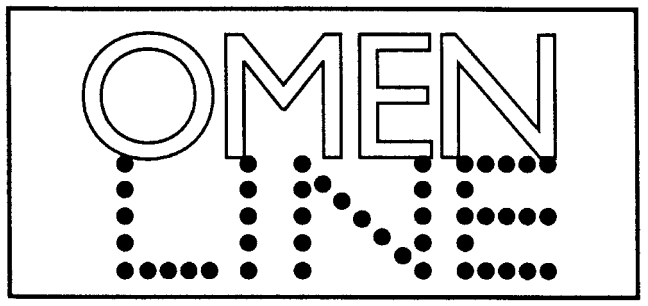

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principa
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PA
There is still hope for nonimm
all alien workers in the CNMI who are appealing to U.S. lawmakers to retain the provision in the federalization bills that would grant nonimmigrant status to long-term alien workers.
In her message, expected to be read during today's prayer vigil at the American Memorial Park's Amphitheater, Doromal urged alien workers to "stand strong" as she vowed to continue supporting them "until the fight is won."
See DOROMAL on Page 4
joins Micronesia si
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulatio

235- NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Vijay Singh wins Barclays in dramatic playoff

PARAMUS, N.J. (AP)—Vijay Singh ended up beating Sergio Garcia on a gopher hole. Yes, a gopher. Or maybe a mole. Singh won The Barclays for a record fourth time Sunday, matching Garcia's long birdie putt on the first hole of a playoff and finishing off his Spanish friend on the second extra hole after Garcia got a lucky break from the furry critter.

After Singh topped Garcia's 27-foot birdie putt on the first extra hole—the 472-yard 18th—with a 26-footer, things got a little weird on the 577-yard, par-5 17th.

First, Garcia uncharacteristically hooked his drive into the left rough. Then, with Singh in the fairway, Garcia hit his second shot behind a huge tree in the right rough. Singh then hit a 267-yard approach onto the green, about 20 feet long and right.

"I got stymied behind the tree and I got lucky because I got a drop because of some gopher holes or whatever it was," Garcia said. "It wasn't where my ball was, but like about 5 or 6 feet left. It was actually moving. You could see the grass going up and down. It was actually there and we were trying to find it, but we couldn't."

Able to get a clear path to the green, Garcia advanced the ball near the front of the green about 30 feet from the hole and nearly holed his chip. Singh then rolled his 20-foot eagle putt within inches for a tap-in birdie.

"I wasn't really concerned about him," Singh said. "I just wanted to know why he got a drop, there was obviously a mole there and he was burrowing at that moment, you could see him popping out. ... I was really focused on what I was doing."

The 45-year-old Fijian closed with a 1-under 70 to match Garcia (70) and Kevin Sutherland (68) at 8-under 276 on the sun-baked Ridgewood Country Club course, the first-time site after 41 seasons at Westchester Country Club.

"It's a great golf course," said Singh, the 1993, 1995 and 2006 winner at Westchester. "Westchester was a good golf course. This tops Westchester. Every single player out there absolutely enjoyed this golf course."

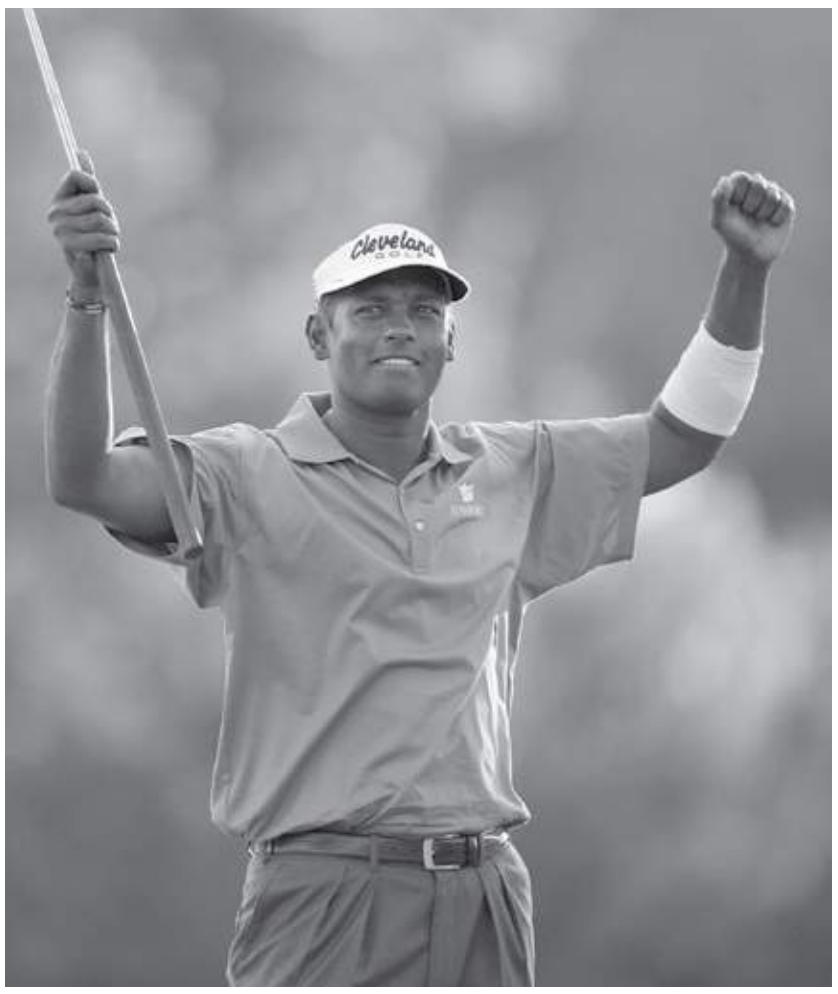
The Bridgestone winner three weeks ago at Firestone, Singh earned 11,000 FedEx Cup points in the playoff opener to take the lead with 109,500 points—5,125 ahead of second-place Garcia. Singh also earned $1.26 million for his 33rd PGA Tour victory.

Singh and Garcia, a two-time Westchester champion who won The Players Championship in May in a playoff with Paul Goydos, had the large crowd around the 18th green roaring with the birdie exchange on the first extra hole.

"I think he was surprised to make his," Singh said. "I was surprised to see it go in and he was even more surprised to see mine go in."

Singh and Garcia high-fived each other after Singh holed his putt.

"He's a good friend of mine," Singh said. "It's hard to see your friend not win, especially if he's playing against you, but somebody has to win."



AP

Vijay Singh, of Fiji, celebrates his putt on the second playoff hole to win The Barclays golf tournament on Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008, at Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J.

Sutherland was on the back fringe in three when Garcia and Singh holed out.

"I really am happy with how I played and, obviously, disappointed I wasn't able to play a little bit better in the playoff," said Sutherland, third in the standings. "I've got to forget about that and think about the other 72 holes."

Third-round leader Kevin Streelman (72), Ben Curtis (68) and Mathew Goggin (67) tied for fourth at 7 under, and Martin Laird (67), Justin Leonard (67), Nicholas Thompson (67), Mike Weir (72) and Paul Casey (72) followed at 6 under.

Garcia reached 8 under with a tap-in birdie on 17, and missed a chance to get to 9 under on 18 when he pulled a 16-footer. Singh, playing in the final group, reached 8 under with a two-putt birdie on 17, and also missed a 16-foot birdie try on 18.

"It was a tough day. It wasn't easy to get close to the hole, so birdie was difficult to come by," Singh said. "It was drying out really, really a lot, and you've got to play almost conservative on some holes.

"But it was a great playoff, though. I enjoyed that."

Phil Mickelson shot a 68 to tie for 19th at 4 under. He dropped from third to fourth in the points standings entering his Deutsche Bank title defense.

"I was a good round and it gives me some momentum to carry over," he said.

Steve Stricker, three strokes ahead after a second-round 64 and four in front at 12 under after 10 holes Saturday, had a 71 to join Mickelson at 4 under. The winner last year at Westchester, Stricker shot a 77 in the third round.

Kenny Perry, second in the standings behind the sidelined Tiger Woods entering the week, had weekend rounds of 72 and 76 to tie for 48th at even par. A three-time winner this season, Perry dropped to seventh in the points race.

Angels rally past Twins 5-3 to split 4-game series

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels got RBI triples from Vladimir Guerrero and Gary Matthews Jr. in the eighth inning to rally past the Minnesota Twins 5-3 for a split of their four-game series on Sunday.

Trailing 3-0, Mark Teixeira homered in the sixth and Howie Kendrick scored on a groundout in the seventh to cut Minnesota's lead to 3-2.

Teixeira led off the eighth with a double against Denny Reyes and scored when Guerrero drove an 0-1 pitch from Jesse Crain (5-3) to center for his third triple of the season. Matthews later tripled in the go-ahead run and scored on Juan Rivera's sacrifice fly.

White Sox 6, Rays 5, 10 innings

At Chicago, Alexei Ramirez singled home the winning run in the 10th inning after A.J. Pierzynski's bizarre trip around the bases, and Chicago rallied to avoid a sweep.

Jim Thome hit his 534th homer, Carlos Quentin also connected and the White Sox tied it at 5 in the ninth on pinch-hitter Paul Konerko's two-out single off fill-in closer Dan Wheeler.

Pierzynski led off the 10th with a single against Jason Hammel (4-4), then tagged up and went to second on a flyout to center. Jermaine Dye sent a grounder toward shortstop, Pierzynski got caught in a rundown and the strange play unfolded.

Yankees 8, Orioles 7

At Baltimore, Robinson Cano hit the tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning after New York blew a five-run lead, and the Yankees hung on to finish a three-game sweep.

Cano went 4-for-5 with two doubles, two RBIs and two runs scored. Johnny Damon hit a three-run homer and Bobby Abreu had three hits for the Yankees.

Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 5, 11 innings

At Toronto, Jed Lowrie hit a solo homer in the 11th inning, Dustin Pedroia had a three-run shot and Boston won for the 11th time in 16 games on the road.

Lowrie hit a one-out drive to right, his second big league homer, off right-hander Brandon League (0-2), who had not allowed a run in his previous 12 appearances. Lowrie, playing third base, also threw out a runner at the plate on a sixth-inning relay.

Mariners 8, Athletics 4

At Seattle, Felix Hernandez allowed three runs over six innings to win for the first time in more than a month for Seattle.

All three runs against Hernandez (8-8) came on homers, but he held Oakland to only one other hit while striking out seven to capture his first victory since July 18.

Royals 7, Tigers 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Brandon Duckworth went five shaky innings for his first major league win as a starter in more than two years, helping Kansas City end a seven-game losing streak.

Mark Teahen drove in three runs for the Royals.

Duckworth (1-0), brought up on Sunday from Triple-A Omaha, faced 24 batters and 11 reached base, on seven hits and four walks. He did not record a strikeout in getting his first major league win as a starter since beating Milwaukee in June 2006.

Indians 4, Rangers 3

At Arlington, Texas, Franklin Gutierrez's tiebreaking single in the ninth inning led Cleveland to its seventh straight win and a three-game sweep of fading Texas.

With the game tied at 3, Ryan Garko led off the ninth with a single off Eddie Guardado (3-3). Pinch runner Andy Gonzalez advanced to second on Kelly Shoppach's sacrifice bunt, and Gonzalez raced home on Gutierrez's single up the middle.

Phillies 5, Dodgers 2

At Philadelphia, Pedro Feliz hit a tying RBI single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth and delivered a three-run homer with two outs in the 11th to lift the Philadelphia Phillies over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Phillies closed within a half-game of the NL East-leading New York Mets, while Los Angeles remained three games behind Arizona in the West.

Astros 6, Mets 4

At New York, Brad Ausmus and Darin Erstad hit home runs in the 10th inning as Houston beat New York.

Hunter Pence added a two-run shot as Houston overcame Carlos Beltran's two homers, improving to 3-3 on its seven-game road trip.

Marlins 5, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, Josh Willingham homered and drove in two runs to back Ricky Nolasco's outstanding pitching performance, moving Florida within five games of the first-place Mets.

Nolasco (13-7) allowed three hits and struck out 10 over 7 1-3 innings for the Marlins, who took two of three from NL West-leading Arizona.

Cardinals 6, Braves 3

At St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer, his eighth hit in 10 at-bats, and St. Louis handed Atlanta its 12th loss in 14 games.

Pujols hit his 28th homer in the first, lining a 1-0 fastball down the middle from Jo-Jo Reyes (3-10) into the left field stands. He has 87 RBIs, closing in on his eighth straight 100-RBI season to begin his career.

Cubs 6, Nationals 1

At Chicago, Rich Harden matched a career-high with 11 strikeouts, Mark DeRosa homered for the fourth straight game and streaking Chicago won its eighth straight series.

Harden, 4-1 with a 1.47 ERA since his July trade from Oakland, reached double-digit strikeouts for the seventh time in his career and fifth time in eight starts with the Cubs.

Brewers 4, Pirates 3, 12 innings

At Milwaukee, J.J. Hardy singled in the winning run on his bobblehead day at Miller Park, and Milwaukee earned its 12th straight home win over Pittsburgh.

CC Sabathia got a no-decision instead of a win for a change, but the Brewers still kept pace in the playoff race with their 23rd win in their last at-bat and ninth series sweep this season.

Rockies 4, Reds 3, 12 innings

At Denver, Omar Quintanilla homered with one out in the 12th inning and Colorado took advantage of five Cincinnati errors for the victory.

Colorado, which stranded 18 runners, tied it in the ninth thanks to two errors and a balk. Matt Holliday scored the tying run on a wild throw by right fielder Jay Bruce.

Giants 7, Padres 4

At San Francisco, Kevin Correia pitched six innings to win for only the second time since April, Bengie Molina homered and drove in five runs, and San Francisco finished a three-game sweep.

Correia (3-7) gave up a homer to Brian Giles on his first pitch of the game but was solid after that, scattering seven hits and striking out four on his 28th birthday.

Giants DE Umenyiora needs surgery, to miss season

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—With the retirement of seven-time Pro Bowl defensive end Michael Strahan, the job of repeating as Super Bowl champions was going to be difficult for the New York Giants.

Now it might be near impossible with the news that fellow Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora is out for the season with a knee injury.

An MRI on Sunday showed that Umenyiora tore the lateral meniscus in his left knee in a preseason game against the archrival Jets on Saturday night.

The two-time Pro Bowler will have surgery on Tuesday at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. The recovery period is about four months.

Dr. Russell Warren, the team surgeon, never discussed a non-surgical option, coach Tom Coughlin said.

"My number one concern is about Osi," Coughlin said in a telephone conference call on Sunday. "I did talk to him on the phone a short while ago and told him that he is in everyone's thoughts and prayers."

The devastating report came less than 24 hours after the team had thought it had caught a break in the wake of the second-quarter injury, which happened when Umenyiora's foot seemed to stick to the turf as he tried to beat Jets tackle D'Brickashaw Ferguson to the outside.

Umenyiora was carted off the field with what the team described as a locked knee. X-rays taken during the game revealed no ligament damage. An MRI on Sunday found the torn meniscus on the 26-year-old who led the team with 13 sacks last season.

"It was obviously the news that I did not want to hear," Coughlin said. "But after listening to the explanation and Dr. Warren's thoughts on it, I am convinced that this is the right procedure and the right way to go."

The combination of the injury and Strahan's retirement leaves the Giants very thin at defensive end.

Coughlin said the team is considering all its options, with the most obvious being enticing the 36-year-old Strahan to come out of retirement.

Strahan retired in June, ending a 15-year career highlighted by the Giants' stunning Super Bowl victory over the unbeaten New England Patriots.

Coughlin recently talked with Strahan about his new career working on Fox's pregame NFL show on Sundays.

"The only thing I talked with Michael about was his new challenge, moving forward in his new assignment and he was very excited about that," Coughlin said.

Agent Tony Agnone said the Giants have not contacted him to ask about Strahan, who is out of the country on vacation.

"Obviously, he loves the Giants and obviously he is working for Fox," Agnone said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "Right now he is relaxing and getting ready for his Fox gig."

Strahan missed all of training camp last season while mulling retirement. He reported to the team a little more than a week before the season opener and played well.

However, he trained while thinking about retirement last year and was in good shape.

The Giants open the season on Sept. 4 against the Washington Redskins.

Justin Tuck has replaced Strahan at left end. Replacing Umenyiora at right end will not be easy. He has had 40 1/2 sacks over the last four seasons. His team-high 13 sacks last season was highlighted by a franchise-record six against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sept. 30 at Giants Stadium.

Coughlin has three choices to replace Umenyiora. He can start either Renaldo Wynn, the veteran free agent who was signed in the offseason, or second-year pro Dave Tollefson, who played well late last season in a backup role.

The other option would be to move strongside linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka back to defensive end. He was switched to linebacker last year so the team could put its best 11 players on the field.

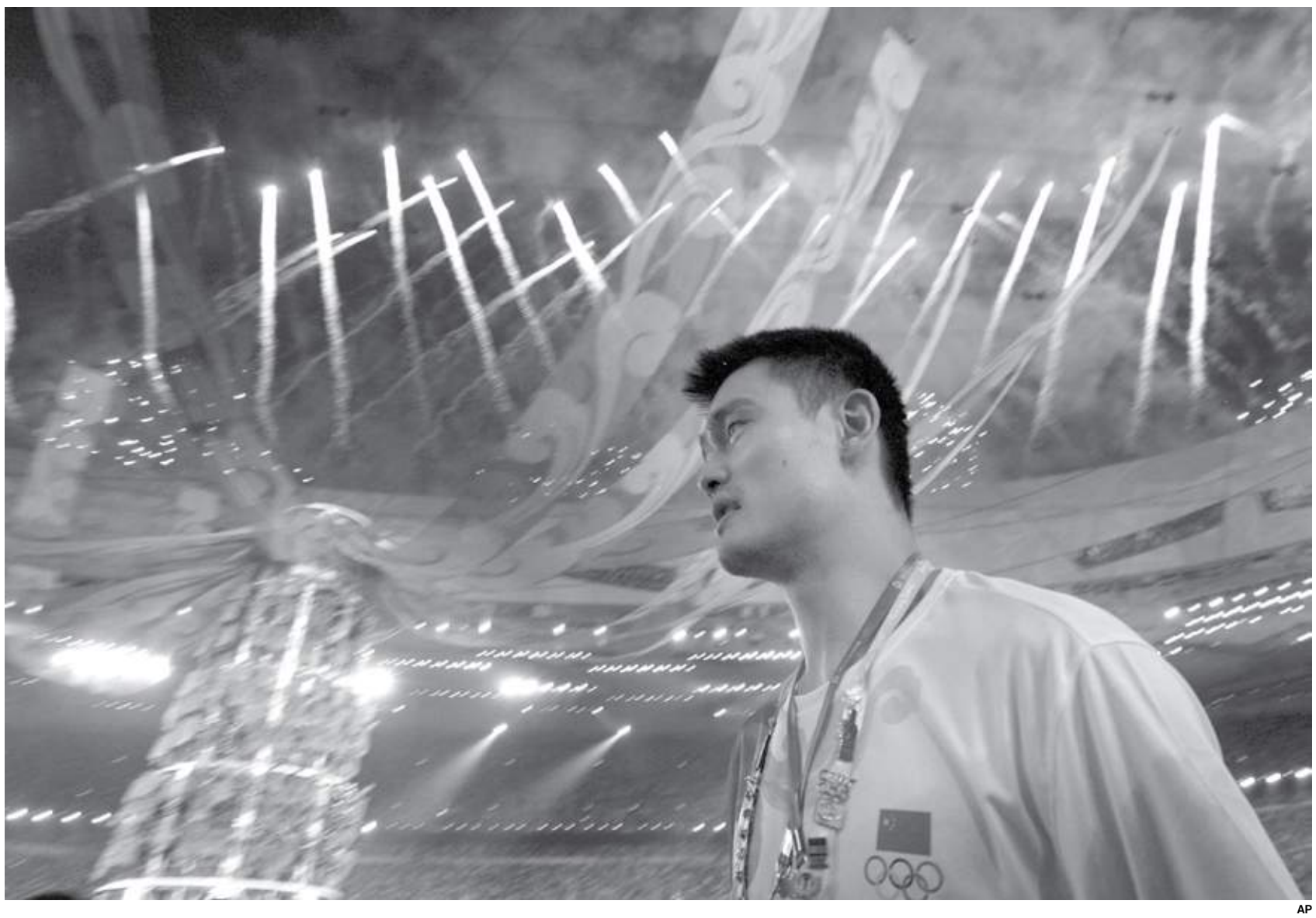
"I haven't talked to any of the players or to Kiwi or anyone this afternoon and until I do that, I will just refrain from any thoughts about what might happen within our team," Coughlin said.

Coughlin said losing a player in a preseason game is difficult.

"I think the number one thing that brings frustration, anxiety, and knots in your stomach, all the things that go along with the injury to the players which do not allow your team to function as it is presented on paper," Coughlin said. "Those types of things are very difficult for coaches, no matter what age you are."

Host China wins gold medal race; US first overall

BEIJING (AP)—China proved an acquisitive first-time Olympic host, topping the gold-medal chart with one of the most dominating and diverse performances ever. The United States, Britain and an array of small nations also had reasons to celebrate.



AP

China basketball star Yao Ming looks on during the closing ceremony for the Beijing 2008 Olympics at the National Stadium, Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008, in Beijing.

China's haul of 51 gold medals was the largest since the Soviet Union won 55 in Seoul in 1988. Fielding athletes groomed since childhood in sports academies, it won medals in 25 different sports, including its first ever in sailing, beach volleyball and field hockey.

Not since 1936, when Nazi Germany prevailed at the Berlin Olympics, had a country other than the U.S. or the Soviet Union/Russia led the gold medal list.

The United States trailed well behind the Chinese in golds with 36, the first time since 1992 it didn't lead the category. But the Americans did break their own mark for total medals in a non-boycotted Olympics; they won 110 in all, two more than their previous high set in 1992 and 10 ahead of China's overall tally this year.

Britain, getting an early jump on its host role for the 2012 Summer Games, had its best Olympics in a century with 19 gold medals—good for fourth place behind the Russians. Its cyclists and sailors were the class of the field, and 19-year-old Rebecca Adlington stunned the swimming world with two golds in distance events.

It was also a satisfying Olympics for many of the world's weaker sporting nations. A record 87 nations won medals, seven more than the previous high in Sydney in 2000, and a dozen nations won either their first-ever gold medal or first medal of any color.

If there was a prominent loser at the games, it was Russia, whose team was deprived of 10 athletes due to doping accusations. The Russians finished a distant third in both gold medals, with 23, and overall medals with 72—down from 27 and 92 four years ago in Athens. Germany and Japan also fared noticeably worse than in Athens.

The United States was disappointed by its boxing team (one bronze medal) and a lack of golds by its sprinters, but was delighted by breakthroughs in lesser sports such as fencing, as well as by the historic eight golds for record-smashing swimmer Michael Phelps.

"Both on the field of play and off, this will go down as one of the greatest performances ever for a United States Olympic Team," spokesman Darryl Seibel said Sunday.

Overshadowing the entire U.S. effort, however, was a recognition of China's arrival as the dominant Summer Olympics power.

"China has been systematically targeting every single available medal, and we're going to have to do that in the future," said U.S. Olympic Committee chairman Peter Ueberroth.

"The resources that they put toward their Olympic team and the population base and the dedication is fantastic," he said. "It's much more difficult for the rest of the world to compete, but that's the way it should be."

China, of course, has the largest population pool—1.3 billion people—from which to recruit athletes. Several far smaller nations distinguished themselves in medals per capita.

Jamaica's sprinters and hurdlers—led by triple-gold sensation Usain Bolt—won 11 medals, one for every 245,000 of its 2.7 million people. With a population of 21.4 million, Australia won 46 medals, one for each 465,000 people. Cuba won 24 medals, one for each 470,000 of its 11.3 million citizens.

Populous countries with no medals included Pakistan, the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Kenya, despite election-related unrest which killed hundreds and disrupted its preparations, had a great games with five golds and 14 medals overall. Ethiopian runners Kenenisa Bekele and Tirunesh Dibaba each won rare double golds in the 5,000 and 10,000.

Overall, Africa won 40 medals—the most ever. Those included the first-ever Olympic medals for Togo in canoeing, Mauritius in boxing, and Sudan in the 800 meters. Also winning first-ever medals were Tajikstan, Bahrain (a gold by Rachid Ramzi in the men's 1,500), and war-torn Afghanistan.

Two other athletes, in addition to Ramzi, won their countries' first gold medals—Panamanian long jumper Irving Saladino and Mongolian judoka Naidangiin Tuvshinbayar.

Tuvshinbayar's medal triggered raucous celebrations in Mongolia's capital, Ulan Bator, and a presidential decree declared him a "hero of Labor."

There were other breakthroughs—Tunisia and South Korea won golds in swimming for the first time; long jumper Maurren Higa Maggi became the first Brazilian women to win a gold in track.

MIXED

From Page 28

Bolt with three golds and three world records in the sprints.

The International Olympic Committee, whose selection of Beijing as host back in 2001 was widely questioned, insisted its choice had been vindicated.

"Tonight, we come to the end of 16 glorious days which we will cherish forever," IOC President Jacques Rogge told the capacity crowd of 91,000 at the National Outdoor Stadium, and a global TV audience. "Through these Games, the world learned more about China, and China learned more about the world."

"These were truly exceptional games," he said, before declaring them formally closed.

The head of the Beijing organzing committee, Liu Qi, said the games were "testimony to the fact that the world has rested its trust in China." He called them "a grand celebration of sport, of peace and friendship."

Rogge and the IOC were criticized by human rights groups for their reluctance to publicly challenge the Chinese as various controversies arose over press freedom and detention of dissidents. Athletes shied away from making political statements, and "protest zones" established in Beijing went unused as the authorities refused to issue permits for them.

But the atmosphere was festive at the stadium as fireworks burst from its top rim—and from locations across Beijing—to begin the closing ceremony.

After an army band played the Chinese national anthem, hundreds of gayly dressed dancers, acrobats and drummers swirled onto the field, then made room for the athletes, strolling in casually and exuberantly from four different entrances.

China invested more than $40 billion in the games, which it viewed as a chance to show the world its dramatic economic progress. Olympic telecasts achieved record ratings in China and the United States, and the games' presence online was by far the most extensive ever.

Rogge said these Olympics would leave a lasting, positive legacy for China—improved transportation infrastructure, more grass-roots interest in recreational sports, a more aggressive approach to curbing air pollution and other environmental problems. Smog that enveloped the city early in the games gave way to mostly clear skies, easing fears that some endurance events might be hazardous for the athletes.

WHITE

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invitation to FIBA Oceania and its FIBA referees as part of their ongoing 'referee exchange' opportunities between zones. This has been going on for several years and since Europe is made up of so many countries, there are always a lot of different FIBA Europe sanctioned tournaments. So, my superior, Mr. Steve Smith, the secretary general of FIBA Oceania, offered me a great opportunity to referee in Europe by nominating me to officiate in this year's Under-18 European championship for men Division B tournament," White said.

The tournament featured teams from Slovenia, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovak Republic, Austria, Sweden, Portugal, Denmark, Netherlands, Montenegro, Finland, Romania, Georgia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, Hungary, England, Norway, and Ireland.

Slovenia won the tournament, beating the Czech Republic in the finals, 68-60.

White left Saipan on July 22 and arrived on Debrecen two days after five connecting flights. From Saipan, he went to Guam then to Manila, Doha, Athens, and Budapest before reaching his final destination.

A day after arriving in Debrecen, he buckled down to work, officiating one game every day, and on some days had to be a stand-by referee for one or two more games.

"Officiating every day was a lot of work. I had all of my gear, which I prepared the night before, ready to go, hop on the bus with my colleagues to be transported to one of the two basketball venues where our games were to be played, and head straight to the referees locker room. Once there, I had to suit up for the game and then the crew chief conducted our referee pre-game conference to work out certain criteria we should focus on as we officiated our game," White said.

Once the criteria were discussed and everyone was warmed up and ready to go, we officiated our games," he added. "Everyone was very professional and took their job with much responsibility because we were all FIBA referees."

White, who officiated games in the South Pacific Games and Micronesian Games, added officiating and basketball itself in Europe are very different from what we have in Oceania.

"Officiating in Europe is very different in several ways compared to FIBA Oceania. The standard of play and the level of competition are very high. The entire structure of basketball in Europe is much more organized, from each individual country's basketball federations to the coaches and coaching staff, to even the very athletic, educated, and fundamentally sound basketball players," said White.

"Officiating in this tournament was different from Oceania in terms of mechanics. Again, FIBA Oceania and FIBA Europe are in two different parts of the world with two different styles of officiating because of many factors: the amount of countries in each respective zone, the number of teams and players and even officials, the different cultures and habits, the different interpretations of rules and situations in games, and so on," he added.

At the end of each game, White said their performances were evaluated.

"We were critiqued at the end of each game. Games were recorded on video and transferred onto DVD format for further viewing, evaluation and discussion by the commissioners, FIBA instructors and referee nominators, and the entire three-man crew during our daily morning referees meetings the next day," White said.

Among the games he officiated, White remembers the Slovak Republic-Hungary the most.

"This game was very intense because Hungary knew that it needed to win to advance to the next round, and the entire gym was packed with rowdy, die-hard fans. The first call I made—a traveling violation—against Hungary's center in the post got me hundreds of boos from the tough home crowd. In fact, this happened three times, even though all of my calls were correct," White said.

"In the end, Slovak republic won the game, and like any home crowd, I saw, heard, and felt all of the emotions after the game. But, that's part of the game—one team plays better and wins and the other loses—and I have been through worse. I just shrugged it all off knowing that I did the best job and I was very satisfied with my officiating with my fellow FIBA referees."

MASTERS

From Page 28

ments will be arriving on Saipan before Aggreko International installs its generators which will hopefully help ease the power crisis on the island.

MBL was originally planned to kick off on Aug. 20 with new rules on recruitment of players.

Teams interested in participating in the 2008 season of the league, which is open to players in the 35-and-above age group, can now recruit five players aged 35 years old. The remaining seven slots on the team must be filled by players in the 40, 45, 50, and 55 age brackets. The new rules on recruitment will create balance in the league.

Before, MBL was divided into two divisions, namely the 35-and-above and 45-and-above age groups.

Games will be held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, which was affected by the frequent power outages causing the cancellation of games in the PTI and Rotary cage leagues. Matches in the title series in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball tournament at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield had been also suspended due to power outages.

For more information about the 2008 MBL, call Mesa at 868-6578.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	79	50	.612	_
Boston	75	55	.577	4 1/2
New York	70	60	.538	9 1/2
Toronto	67	63	.515	12 1/2
Baltimore	61	68	.473	18

Central Division

Chicago	74	55	.574	_
Minnesota	74	56	.569	½
Detroit	64	66	.492	10 1/2
Cleveland	62	67	.481	12
Kansas City	56	74	.431	18 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	79	50	.612	_
Texas	63	68	.481	17
Oakland	59	71	.454	20 1/2
Seattle	48	82	.369	31 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	72	59	.550	_
Philadelphia	71	59	.546	1/2
Florida	67	64	.511	5
Atlanta	57	74	.435	15
Washington	46	85	.351	26

Central Division

Chicago	80	50	.615	_
Milwaukee	76	55	.580	4 1/2
St. Louis	73	59	.553	8
Houston	66	64	.508	14
Pittsburgh	57	73	.438	23
Cincinnati	57	74	.435	23 1/2

West Division

Arizona	68	62	.523	_
Los Angeles	65	65	.500	3
Colorado	61	71	.462	8
San Francisco	58	72	.446	10
San Diego	48	82	.369	20

Yesterday's Games

Houston 6, N.Y. Mets 4, 10 innings
Milwaukee 4, Pittsburgh 3, 12 innings
St. Louis 6, Atlanta 3
Chicago Cubs 6, Washington 1
Colorado 4, Cincinnati 3, 12 innings
San Francisco 7, San Diego 4
Florida 5, Arizona 2
Philadelphia 5, L.A. Dodgers 2 inning
Boston 6, Toronto 5, 11 innings
N.Y. Yankees 8, Baltimore 7
Chicago White Sox 6, Tampa Bay 5, 10 innings
Kansas City 7, Detroit 3
L.A. Angels 5, Minnesota 3
Seattle 8, Oakland 4
Cleveland 4, Texas 3

THE BARCLAYS SCORES

PARAMUS, New Jersey (AP)–Scores Sunday from the Barclays, a $7 million (4.7 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,319-yard, par-71 Ridgewood Country Club:

FINAL ROUND

(x-won on second hole of playoff)

x-Vijay Singh	70-70-66-70	276
Sergio Garcia	70-67-69-70	276
Kevin Sutherland	70-69-69-68	276
Mathew Goggin	67-74-69-67	277
Ben Curtis	71-68-70-68	277
Kevin Streelman	67-70-68-72	277
Martin Laird	70-69-72-67	278
Justin Leonard	70-70-71-67	278
Nicholas Thompson	75-68-68-67	278
Mike Weir	72-67-67-72	278
Paul Casey	66-71-69-72	278
K.J. Choi	74-69-68-68	279
Ken Duke	72-71-67-69	279
Scott Verplank	73-70-67-69	279
Anthony Kim	70-67-72-70	279
Dudley Hart	67-69-73-70	279
Bubba Watson	68-70-71-70	279
Jim Furyk	70-71-68-70	279
Jerry Kelly	72-70-71-67	280
Phil Mickelson	70-70-72-68	280
Steve Stricker	68-64-77-71	280
Stuart Appleby	71-70-68-71	280
Angel Cabrera	69-67-72-72	280
J.B. Holmes	71-71-73-66	281
Tim Herron	69-71-73-68	281
Mark Wilson	72-70-71-68	281
Rory Sabbatini	70-70-72-69	281
Jesper Parnevik	68-72-72-69	281
Glen Day	70-71-70-70	281
Patrick Sheehan	69-70-70-72	281
John Senden	71-70-72-69	282
Billy Mayfair	70-70-73-69	282
Jay Williamson	74-68-70-70	282
George McNeill	68-70-73-71	282
Kevin Na	72-70-68-72	282
Hunter Mahan	62-73-74-73	282
Jason Day	74-68-66-74	282
Brian Davis	69-74-70-70	283
Stewart Cink	73-70-70-70	283
Tim Clark	70-69-73-71	283
Charley Hoffman	67-71-74-71	283
Tim Petrovic	71-72-69-71	283
Brett Quigley	71-69-71-72	283
Eric Axley	78-65-68-72	283
John Merrick	69-71-70-73	283
Jeff Overton	74-67-68-74	283
Robert Allenby	69-73-66-75	283
Justin Bolli	71-71-72-70	284
Carl Pettersson	72-70-71-71	284
Lee Janzen	71-69-72-72	284
John Mallinger	70-73-69-72	284
Briny Baird	69-71-69-75	284
Dean Wilson	72-70-67-75	284
Kenny Perry	69-67-72-76	284
Andres Romero	72-68-77-68	285
Lucas Glover	70-70-75-70	285
J.J. Henry	70-72-74-69	285
Jonathan Byrd	72-70-73-70	285
Steve Elkington	71-71-71-72	285
Rich Beem	68-74-71-72	285
Bill Haas	71-68-71-75	285
Nick Watney	71-69-75-71	286
Ryan Palmer	69-69-72-76	286
Frank Lickliter II	71-71-71-74	287
Michael Allen	73-67-75-73	288
Charlie Wi	72-71-72-73	288
Chad Campbell	71-72-69-76	288
Richard S. Johnson	74-69-74-72	289
Brandt Snedeker	71-71-73-74	289
Trevor Immelman	70-71-76-73	290
Bo Van Pelt	67-74-70-80	291
Paul Goydos	70-72-77-76	295

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Medal Standings

	G	S	B	Total
United States	36	38	36	110
China	51	21	28	100
Russia	23	21	28	72
Britain	19	13	15	47
Australia	14	15	17	46
Germany	16	10	15	41
France	7	16	17	40
South Korea	13	10	8	31
Italy	8	10	10	28
Ukraine	7	5	15	27
Japan	9	6	10	25
Cuba	2	11	11	24
Belarus	4	5	10	19
Spain	5	10	3	18
Canada	3	9	6	18
Netherlands	7	5	4	16
Brazil	3	4	8	15
Kenya	5	5	4	14
Kazakhstan	2	4	7	13
Jamaica	6	3	2	11
Poland	3	6	1	10
Hungary	3	5	2	10
Norway	3	5	2	10
New Zealand	3	1	5	9
Romania	4	1	3	8
Turkey	1	4	3	8
Ethiopia	4	1	2	7
Denmark	2	2	3	7
Azerbaijan	1	2	4	7
Czech Republic	3	3	0	6
Slovakia	3	2	1	6
Georgia	3	0	3	6
North Korea	2	1	3	6
Argentina	2	0	4	6
Switzerland	2	0	4	6
Uzbekistan	1	2	3	6
Armenia	0	0	6	6
Slovenia	1	2	2	5
Bulgaria	1	1	3	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Sweden	0	4	1	5
Croatia	0	2	3	5
Lithuania	0	2	3	5
Mongolia	2	2	0	4
Thailand	2	2	0	4
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Finland	1	1	2	4
Greece	0	2	2	4
Nigeria	0	1	3	4
Chinese Taipei	0	0	4	4
Mexico	2	0	1	3
51t Latvia	1	1	1	3
India	1	0	2	3
Austria	0	1	2	3
Ireland	0	1	2	3
Serbia	0	1	2	3
Belgium	1	1	0	2
Dominican Republic	1	1	0	2
Estonia	1	1	0	2
Portugal	1	1	0	2
Iran	1	0	1	2
Trinidad and Tobago	0	2	0	2
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Bahamas	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Morocco	0	1	1	2
Tajikistan	0	1	1	2
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Panama	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Iceland	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Sudan	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Mauritius	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1
Venezuela	0	0	1	1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAPHAEL

From Page 28

Trailing Zapanta by a whopping 110 pins was newcomer Leeanne Yarobwemal who wound up with a 527 total and a 131.75 average. Yarobwemal rolled a four-game series of 159, 149, 115, and 104.

April champion Zack Cruz finished third with a four-game series of 517 and 129.25 average. He started out with a 144, rolled a 121 in the second, before finishing up with identical 126s in the final two games.

Troy Verdaguer, Marion McKenzie, and Toby Verdaguer make up the rest of the participants for the August Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament with pinfall totals of 488, 432, and 256, respectively.

For finishing 1-2-3, Zapanta, Yarobwemal, and Cruz won $20, $15, and $10, respectively from SBA and MARPAC.

Simon Manacop and Elena Soll, meanwhile, are leading the August Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes following Sunday's roll-off at the Garapan venue.

Manacop, who already won the March and June roll-offs for men, opened up with three straight 200-plus games (244, 241, and 201) before tapering off a bit with a lowly 165 in the fourth game to finish with an eye-popping 851 pinfall total, good for a 212.75 average.

He is followed by Kitz Barja (757 and 189.25) and Raymond Angeles (743 and 185.75).

Soll, for her part, leads the women's division following Day 1 of the monthly tournament after blasting 663 pinfalls, good for a 165.55 average.

Yho Villavicencio (654 and 163.5) and Cora Muna (614 and 153.5) finished second and third in the Queen of the Lanes.

Results of Day 2 of the two-day King and Queen of the Lanes last night were still not available as of press time.

The Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes as well as the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes are sponsored by MARPAC. The tournaments are organized by the Saipan Bowling Association.

HANMI Cup organization meeting today

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The first official organizational meeting for the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League will be held at 3pm today at The Magellan of the Pacific Islands Club.

League coordinator Lito "William" Espino said a total of seven teams have signified their interest in joining the competition, led by defending champion Fiesta Resort and Spa-Saipan Grand Hotel, last year's runner-up PIC, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, and returning Palms Resort Saipan, the former Hotel Nikko Saipan.

Espino said missing from this year's field is inaugural champion Aqua Resort Club, which decided not to enter a team this year.

Like the previous two editions of the HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League, the 2008-2009 season will be organized by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, where Espino is president.

For more information about this afternoon's meeting, call Espino at 323-1135.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Coordinator Lito Espino poses with other team representatives after an informal meeting of the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League held recently.

After Aqua Resort Club won in 2007, the HANMI Cup went through a rollercoaster season in its second year, which saw the combined Fiesta Resort and Spa and Saipan Grand Hotel team take home the title to the delight of its fans and employees.

Led by the high-scoring duo of Ryan Sanciangco and Elmer Esdrelon, the Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. quintet defeated PIC in the winner-take-all finals last April, 87-72.

The game saw Fiesta-Grand draw 57 points from Sanciango and Esdrelon, while PIC was led by the 18 markers of Derrick Tudela.

On other side of the emotional spectrum, the 2007-2008 season witnessed the death of veteran cager Rick Alegre of Aqua Resort during an elimination round game against Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The league was postponed for a week to allow players to mourn Alegre's death who won a number of most valuable player awards not to mention championships with his mother team, Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense, in the United Filipino Organization's yearly basketball leagues.

Sufa players leave for Labor Day softball tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A team from the Sufa Softball Association will be leaving for Las Vegas, Nevada, today to compete in the 2008 Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament.

The tournament, which will feature Saipan players, who are now based in the mainland, will run from Aug. 30 to Sept. 1.

SSA's team is headed by managers Joe Salas and Delbert Sablan. Listed on the team's roster are Mario Salas, Frank Hocog, Frank Camacho, Tom Ito, Dave Santos, Roi Celis, Jeff Cabrera, Joe Cruz, Rep. Ralph Torres, Joe Flores, Jovie Flores, and Ed Flores.

Joe Salas said five more players from the U.S. will join the team.

He added that the tournament will serve as a get-together event for them and former CNMI residents.

"It will be great to see old friends and relatives. CNMI residents and those leaving in the mainland always look forward to the Labor Day tournament, as they get a chance to share not only their passion for softball, but also stories back home," Salas said.

Former CNMI residents who are now living in Oregon, Seattle, Texas, California, and Arizona are expected to play in the two-day tournament.

Several Saipan-based players who are not part of the SSA team are also going to Nevada to suit up for other squads.

Salas said Sufa is hoping to send a team to the Labor Day tournament every year.

Sufa's trip to Nevada was made possible by the various fundraisers the group conducted.

Last week, the association held a golf tournament, raising enough money to help defray the cost of the team's airfare and accommodation.

"We would like to thank all golfers who participated in our fundraiser. Because of their support, we will be able to send a team to the Labor Day tournament and have fun with former CNMI residents," Salas said.

This year's Labor Day tournament will be the fourth edition of the annual event.

The inaugural tournament was held in Boise, Idaho in 2005, in Seattle, Washington in 2006, and back to Boise, Idaho last year.

Two years ago, a team from the CNMI defeated a Portland-based squad in the finals and last year Team Makpo headed by Jerry Ayuyu participated in the tournament.

Choll Aces upset over cancellation of Belau league matches

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Games in the 2008 BASA Men's and Women's Softball League Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield were cancelled.

Power outage was not the culprit this time, as matches were scheduled in broad daylight. Miscommunication was, as several teams, particularly the Choll Aces were not informed of the cancellation.

"Our game was supposed to start at 9am, we came here before game time and our opponent did not show up. The next time we know, all games today were called off," Choll Aces assistant manager Felix Remoket said.

"What happened was they called some teams and they forgot the others. There are players from other teams who came at the ballfield and asked us what happened to the schedule. We told them we don't know, we were not informed, too," Choll Aces manager Ray Sablan said.

Sablan added they are not asking too much from organizers, but appealed to them to inform all managers on the cancellation of games.

"We know there are other games scheduled Sunday, but at least they should have informed all managers so we don't have to wake up early, go to the field and wait for nothing," said Sablan, whose players decided to stay in Dandan and have a picnic with their families.

Saipan Tribune called league organizer Brian Adelbai to comment on the cancellation of Sunday's matches, but he has yet to respond at press time.

Remoket said games were cancelled maybe because of the other tournament set at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Players from teams in the Belau league were at the Capital Hill Ballfield competing in the Pacific Trading Co.'s 6th Annual Miller Lite Marianas Cup Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball Qualifier.

The qualifier was played for two days with Shell Marianas winning the championship for the sixth straight time.

The Choll Aces and the rest of the participating teams are expecting for the resumption of the Belau league this weekend.

Twelve teams are vying for the league's championship. The list include Brotherhood and Man Amigos, who are still undefeated in the tournament, PTI, Auel Auel, Ready Mix, SAI-PAL, PIC, Haga T, Ngiwal, Bombers, and the Falcons.

The women's division has five teams, namely the Hitters, Sakudi, Este Ombe, Ohn Sakau, and Atu'Asi. The Hitters and Sakudi are still unbeaten.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Several members of the Choll Ol'Aces pose for *Saipan Tribune* after their game against Ready Mix in the Belau softball league Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield was called off.

RGA September qualifier this Sunday

Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its September Ace of the Month qualifier this coming Sunday, Aug. 31, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Club tournament director Jess Wabol said the qualifier will have a tee-off time of 12pm so players must sign in an hour earlier, or at 11am. He said RGA has slots for 16 players for this weekend's qualifier.

Wabol also reminded Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship.

He said only four monthly championships remain before RGA's yearend Club Championship set on Dec. 6 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville. The Club Championship assembles all 12 monthly champions, provided they qualify.

For more information about RGA's 2008 calendar of tournaments, contact RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or tournament director Jess Wabol at 233-3673. ***(Mark Rabago)***

HANMI Cup organization meeting today

The first official organizational meeting for the 3rd Annual HANMI Cup Inter-Hotel Basketball League will be held at 3pm today at The Magellan of the Pacific Islands Club.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Vijay Singh wins Barclays in dramatic playoff

Vijay Singh ended up beating Sergio Garcia on a gopher hole. Yes, a gopher. Or maybe a mole. Singh won The Barclays for a record fourth time Sunday,

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Mixed legacy likely as Olympics conclude

Athletes mingle during the closing ceremony for the Beijing 2008 Olympics at the National Stadium, Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008, in Beijing. AP

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

With help from British star power, China concluded its debut as Olympic host Sunday after 16 days of near-flawless logistics and superlative athletic achievement—coexisting awkwardly with the government's wariness of dissent and free speech.

A spectacular closing ceremony opened with torrents of fireworks and included a pulsating show-within-a-show by London, host of the 2012 Games. From a stage formed from a red double-decker bus, Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page played classic rock hit "Whole Lotta Love" and soccer icon David Beckham booted a ball into the surrounding throng of athletes on the stadium floor.

Then more lyrical music returned, and the Olympic flame atop the stadium was extinguished.

To a large extent, China, an emergent superpower, got what it had craved from these long-sought games: a dominant effort by its athletes to top the gold-medal standings for the first time and almost glitch-free organizing that showcased world-class venues and cheerful volunteers to the largest-ever peaceful influx of foreign visitors.

As a bonus, not just one but two athletes gave arguably the greatest performances in Olympic history—Michael Phelps with his eight gold medals in swimming, Jamaica's ebullient Usain

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RELATED NEWS
Host China wins gold medal race; US first overall.
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White shares FIBA Europe experience

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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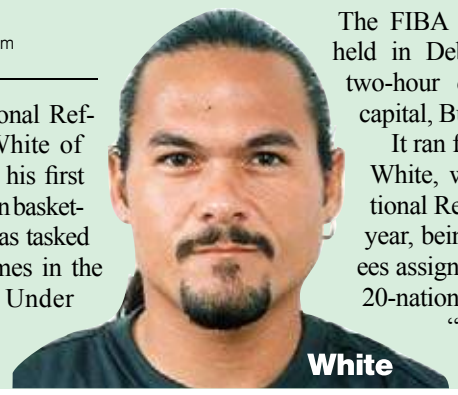
REPORTER

FIBA International Referee Gabriel White of the CNMI had his first taste of European basketball when he was tasked to officiate games in the FIBA Europe Under 20 B-Division Championships last month.



The FIBA Europe youth caging was held in Debrecen, Hungary, about a two-hour drive from the country's capital, Budapest.

It ran from July 24 to Aug. 4 with White, who got his FIBA International Referee badge in October last year, being part of the pool of referees assigned to officiate games in the 20-nation tournament.

"FIBA Europe extends an

See WHITE on Page 26

Masters caging on hold because of power situation

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With the rolling power outages affecting the nightly tournaments at the Oleai Sports Complex, the coordinator of the 2008 Master Basketball League said they will open shop only when generators from the U.K.-based Agrekko International are already operational.

"It would be futile to open the league this month and then cancel games due to a power outage. It will be very inconvenient and frustrating for players, coaches, referees, and spectators to have games suspended in the middle of the match because the power went off, " MBL coordinator Arnold Mesa said.

"I think all the generators will be arriving mid September. Only then we will decide when to open the league," he added.

The first shipment of generators from Aggreko International arrived at the Saipan port Sunday afternoon. Three more ship-

See MASTERS on Page 26

Raphael wins sixth Bing tourney of 2008

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Raphael Zapanta won his third straight Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament and his sixth of the year after topping a six-team field Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

The 13-year-old Chacha Junior High School student's victory in the August tilt follow similar triumphs in the June and July editions of the monthly competition organized by Saipan Bowling Association and sponsored by MARPAC.

The son of bowling officials Ross and Gigi Zapanta tattooed 737 pins in the four-game series to finish with an average of 184.25.

Zapanta had low-key start, rolling a pedestrian 155 in his first game before getting going with a tournament-high 213 in the second. He ended his evening with solid scores of 183 and 186 in the third and fourth games, respectively.

Aside from reigning supreme in the June to August roll-offs, Zapanta also won the February, March, and May competitions of the Bing Prince of the Lanes.

See RAPHAEL on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
August Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament champion Raphael Zapanta is flanked by runners-up Leeanne Yarobwemal, left, and Zach Cruz last Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.